

Joining forces can be very good, but it is not without its disadvantages. By Lucy Hodges

It makes



# THE INDEPENDENT

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(150p) 45p

Tom Lubbock:  
Impressions of  
Monet

REVIEW FRONT

IN THE FRIDAY REVIEW + MUSIC

Crimewatch:  
Have you seen  
this man? PAGE 8

## Beef on bone ban must stay, says health chief

By COLIN BROWN and  
CHARLES ARTHUR

HOPES FOR an early end to the beef-on-the-bone ban have been dashed by the new Chief Medical Officer, who has warned ministers that unboned beef could still pass "human BSE" to the public.

Professor Liam Donaldson's report to the Agriculture Minister, Nick Brown, will come as a serious blow to the beef industry, which was struggling to regain its £500m export market after the ending last November of the European Union's ban on British beef.

Professor Donaldson's recommendation also presents a test of strength for Mr Brown, who has the final say on whether to continue the ban imposed 13 months ago. A decision by Mr Brown to lift the ban would echo the worst behaviour of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (Maff) in the BSE crisis earlier this decade, when it frequently rode roughshod over Department of Health recommendations.

Professor Donaldson, who was appointed in September, warns that there is still a danger of maternal transmission of BSE from cow to calf, and recommends that no immediate moves are made to lift the ban on sales of beef on the bone. He concludes that although the present risk from eating unboned beef is near zero, lifting the ban could introduce a risk which he could not countenance.

In the past three years, 35 people in Britain have died of "new variant" Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease, believed to have been caused by eating BSE-infected food. Most of the victims have been under 40, and scientists suggest that the source of the infection was food eaten before various outbreaks were excluded from food in 1990. Nobody knows how many people will eventually succumb to the fatal disease.

The beef-on-the-bone ban was introduced in December 1997 after the Spongiform Encephalopathy Advisory Committee (Seac) reported that



British butchers will still not be allowed to sell T-bone steaks, as the ban on selling beef on the bone is set to stay

David Rose

there was a very small risk of infection through the nervous tissues, called dorsal root ganglia, in the spinal column of joints of beef on the bone. But the committee did not directly recommend the ban: "Among our recommendations was to do nothing," one member insisted last night.

Professor Donaldson's more cautious approach has delighted Whitehall critics of Maff, which had threatened to shelf

the proposal for an independent Food Standards Agency until it was rescued by the intervention of Tony Blair, Margaret Beckett, Leader of the House, said last night that a draft Bill to set up the agency will be published next Wednesday.

The Bill will allow a flat charge of about £2 a week to be raised for its running costs from 600,000 food outlets. It should reach the statute book in July, around the time that the

BSE inquiry is due to deliver its findings.

Professor Donaldson's report will be seen as evidence that he will be a champion for consumers' safety against pressure from the farming lobby, and that the Government is serious about tackling the Maff influence over food safety. In future, he will report to the Department of Health and the Food Standards Agency.

The Chief Medical Officer's

latest advice is not, however, based on any new scientific evidence. Seac met last week but the continuation of the ban was not discussed. The committee last considered the matter in December; after which Sir John Pattison, its chairman, said any decision about continuing the ban should be "based on the science" - which suggested that the initially small risk had shrunk further.

Ministers have yet to agree a response to Professor Donaldson's report, but senior Whitehall sources said Mr Brown was likely to announce the beef-on-the-bone ban will stay for the foreseeable future.

Though the number of BSE cases in Britain is falling, it is still higher than anywhere else in Europe. In 1998, there were 2,651 cases; the youngest animal to develop it was born in 1995 before new safety measures on farm feed were introduced.

The ripples from the Utah probe have now spread to other cities that were previous hosts to the Olympics. Officials in Nagano, Japan, revealed that records of its bid for 1998 Winter Olympics had been incinerated, and the IOC has agreed to give up its tax-exempt status in Switzerland because of the scandal.

The Utah affair first erupted before Christmas with word of murky contributions and scholarships given to IOC members shortly before they were to vote on the site of the 2002 Olympics at a meeting in Budapest in 1995. The allegations have brought humiliation to Salt Lake City, a mountain metropolis usually associated with the Mormon Church. The US Justice Department may also bring charges.

Details emerged yesterday of lavish hospitality given by Nagano to IOC members in 1991 when it was lobbying for the Winter Games of two years ago. Entertainment extended to members included helicopter rides and lavish dinners with geisha girls in attendance. Among many gifts distributed was an oil painting by a famous Japanese artist worth £16,200 given to Juan Antonio Samaranch, president of the IOC, sources said. Mr Samaranch, however, is exempt from rules limiting the value of gifts, because he is not a voting member. The painting is now hanging on the wall of IOC headquarters, a committee spokesman said yesterday.

To pre-empt any suspicion of bribery in Sydney's successful pitch for next year's summer Games, the state of New South Wales will today release Olympics contracts that had been classified as secret.

## Lib Dems' pact with Blair is falling apart

By ANDREW GRICE  
Political Editor

TONY BLAIR and Paddy Ashdown were struggling last night to keep alive their policy of closer co-operation between their parties after the Liberal Democrat leader's decision to resign. Although they insisted Mr Ashdown's departure would not affect their strategy, senior figures in both parties said privately that it was now in jeopardy.

Cabinet heavyweights who oppose closer relations, including Jack Straw and John Prescott, believe Mr Ashdown's resignation has finally buried any prospect of Mr Blair calling a referendum on electoral reform before the general election. Plans to extend

the remit of the Cabinet committee of senior Liberal Democrats and Labour ministers will run into the sand. The leaders had hoped it would discuss the single currency and welfare reform. Mr Blair's critics believe that relations with Labour will dominate the leadership contest. A Blairite minister admitted Mr Ash-

down's decision was "bad news", adding: "Tony may have to pull back; he cannot be so far out in front of his party on every issue."

Yesterday Mr Blair told the Cabinet that co-operation with the Liberal Democrats would continue. Earlier he said: "People want a different party politics today. They don't want parties stuck in rigid tribal boundaries."

But Gordon Prentice, Labour MP for Pendle, warned: "We've got this incredible schizophrenic attitude towards them [the Liberal Democrats] where we can fight them on the ground and here at Westminster we are developing policy jointly with them. That cannot survive Paddy Ashdown's departure."

The decision, which also affects all other impotence treatments that have been freely available without limit on the NHS up to now, outraged doc-

tors, who condemned it as "cruel and unethical". For the first time it has brought the rationing of NHS treatment, which ministers have consistently denied takes place, under the spotlight.

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The British Medical Association told GPs to defy the Gov-

ernment and prescribe Viagra to patients in clinical need until the guidelines take effect in six weeks - raising the prospect that thousands of men will get the pills, only to have them withdrawn later. The BMA said it was unacceptable to discriminate among patients, because the same condition had different causes.

Mr Dobson acknowledged the decision had been made on financial grounds, becoming the first health minister openly to admit rationing a drug on the NHS, but said priority had to be given to treatment of cancer and mental illness.

Mr Dobson challenged the BMA to come up with other ways of prescribing Viagra to all without the high costs.

Why doctors are angry, page 2

INSIDE

Call for unity as  
election race  
begins page 6

A hero in Tinkers  
Bubble page 6

Steve Richards  
Review, page 5

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Why doctors are angry, page 2

INSIDE THE REVIEW

Teresa Poole  
Don't believe China's  
human rights 'dialogue'  
is making progress  
Comment P4

Philip Hensher  
Jacqueline was a genius.  
Who needs a saint?  
Comment P4

Sears agrees to bid  
Sears, the struggling re-  
tail group, succumbed to  
an agreed £548m bid  
Business P16

Rugby League  
Challenge Cup final will  
be in Scotland next year  
Sport P28

Hungry for life  
If rodents live longer  
on fewer calories,  
could humans too?  
Science P9

Film mort  
Peter Greenaway  
has nothing left to say  
Arts P11

Decadence by design  
Fin de siècle opulence  
reaches dizzy heights  
Design P10

Under the lens  
London's Philharmonia  
lets the TV cameras in  
Classical P14

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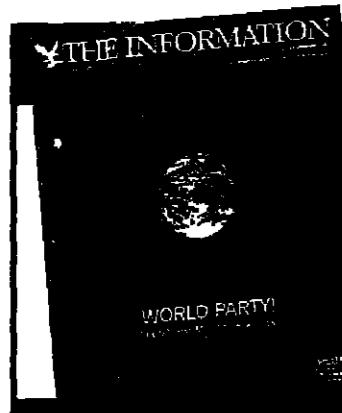
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Under



IN THE INDEPENDENT ON SATURDAY

## The 50 best places to party in the Millennium **THE INFORMATION**

THE ESSENTIAL GUIDE TO STAYING IN AND GOING OUT IN THE WEEK AHEAD

THE BEST WRITING, WEEK IN, WEEK OUT: DEBORAH ROSS, HOWARD JACOBSON, HAMISH MCRAE, MARK STEEL, ROBERT FISK, DEBORAH ORR, TERENCE BLACKER, JOHN WALSH, RICHARD WILLIAMS, DAVID AARONOVITCH, SUSANNAH FRANKLIN, THOMAS SUTCLIFFE, MILES KINGSTON, SUE ARNOLD, ANDREAS WHITFAM SMITH

**PLUS ANNA PAVORD ON MONET'S GARDEN AND ROY HATTERSLEY ON MANDELSON**

# Four killed as RAF jet hits plane

BY NICHOLAS SCHOON  
AND KIM SENGUPTA

FOUR MEN were killed yesterday when an RAF Tornado bomber smashed into a Cessna light aircraft in a mid-air collision above a Nottinghamshire village.

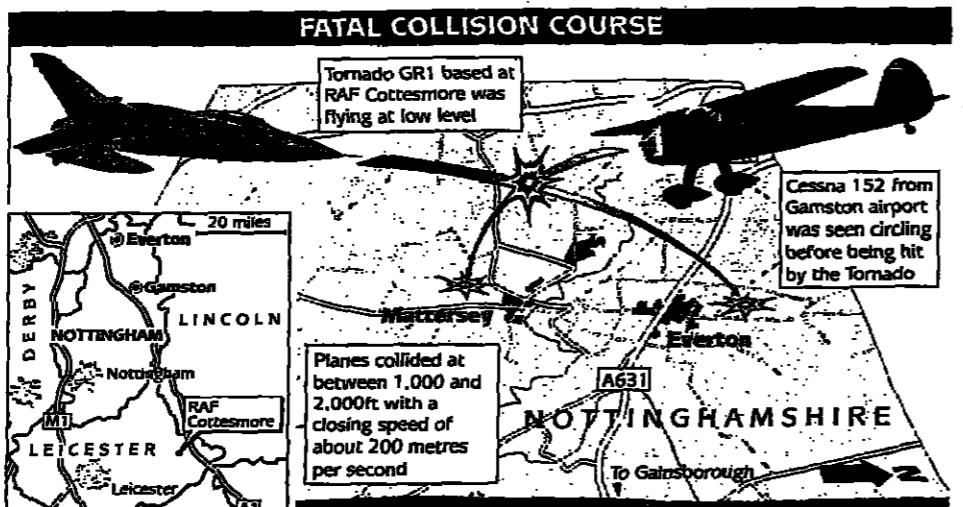
The RAF confirmed last night that one of its instructors and a student pilot from the Italian air force had been in the Tornado. It did not say who had control of the aircraft when the accident happened. It is thought that the Tornado's mission involved low level flying and that the planes crashed at between 1,000 and 2,000ft.

The civilian aircraft came down 300 yards from a primary school, killing both men on board. One of the two RAF personnel in the Tornado managed to eject from their blazing aircraft after the collision, but both he and the other crew member died.

Douglas Scrivener, who witnessed the crash, said: "I was just talking to my neighbour in the back garden when I saw this little plane coming around in a sort of big circle."

"It came around again and then suddenly there was a jet. They hit each other. The jet just went right through the middle of it."

The pilots of both planes had only eyesight to rely on to avoid a collision; they were not



being instructed by air traffic control. With a closing speed of about 200 metres per second they either failed to see each other or had no time to take evasive action.

The Tornado, much larger and heavier than the two-seater Cessna 152, crashed in a ball of flame in fields near the village of Everton, 11 miles from Doncaster. It had been on a training mission from the Tornado training base at RAF Cottesmore in Rutland.

As the jet fell it split fuel over several fields from its ruptured wing tanks and hit power lines, cutting off electricity to the village.

The single-engined light air-

craft came down almost three miles away, near the village of Mattersey. It had taken off from a small airfield at Gamston, 14 miles to the south.

At darkness fell over Mattersey and Everton the bodies of the four dead men were still lying among the shattered pieces of metal and glass which were once the two aircraft.

Teams of investigators moved in the fields lit in patches by floodlights. The roads leading up to the two crash sites were sealed by police, who said there were pools of flammable fuel yet to be cleared.

Another witness, William Allen, who rushed to the site, said: "It was absolutely terrible, relief to find it hadn't been hit.

There were parents and children hugging each other; obviously everyone was very relieved."

Both the RAF and the government's Air Accident Investigation Branch will hold inquiries. All four victims were certified dead at the scene by a police surgeon.

Last night Nottinghamshire Police refused to name any of the victims, saying that not all of their next of kin had been contacted.

David Learmount, safety and operations editor of *Flight International* and a former RAF pilot, said the two aircraft were almost certainly in "uncontrolled airspace" with the pilots having to rely on visual contact to avoid a collision.

The accident was the fourth mid-air collision between civilian and military aircraft over Britain during the past 15 years, and it claimed the largest number of victims.

Collisions involving only military aircraft and only civilian aircraft have both been more frequent.

Last October, RAF pilots at a Scottish air base were given a stern warning after a near miss when a fighter came within 300ft of an airliner approaching Aberdeen airport.

A Civil Aviation Authority report described the incident, which happened the previous year, as "very serious".



A piece of fuselage from the Cessna aircraft lies in a field near Mattersey in Nottinghamshire after the collision with an RAF Tornado jet. Steve Hill

## Impotence is not a joke, say doctors

BY JEREMY LAURANCE  
Health Editor

WHAT HAS most angered doctors about Frank Dobson's decision to restrict prescribing of Viagra is the suggestion that impotence is not a serious problem and that men who want sex should pay for the treatment.

Today's doctors spend much of their time doling out drugs to patients with chronic conditions, to little effect. There is near-universal agreement in the medical community that Viagra is different because it is effective.

John Chisholm, chairman of the British Medical Association,

Medical Advisory Committee, which noted the average frequency of intercourse in the 40-60 age group, the prime market for impotence treatments, was once a week.

Only men with diabetes, multiple sclerosis, single-gene neurological disorders, spinal and prostate problems or who have had radical pelvic surgery will be able to get treatment from their GP on the NHS.

In exceptional circumstances men caused "severe stress" may also qualify but only after referral to a hospital consultant.

Justifying the limits of NHS prescribing, the Health Secretary said the implausible nature of older treatments, such as injections, had deterred all but the most determined patients and limited spending. Now it was available in a tablet form, demand could escalate.

"The cost could increase tenfold or even more... Impotence in itself is neither life-threatening nor does it cause physical pain... We have to find a sensible balance between treating men with a distressing condition and protecting the re-

sources of the NHS to deal with other patients, for example with cancer, heart disease and mental health problems."

The BMA reacted with fury and pledged to campaign to have the guidelines changed. Dr Chisholm said: "Doctors believe it is totally unethical to discriminate among patients with equal clinical needs on the crude basis of the causes of their condition. Viagra is a drug that is legally prescribable. We believe GPs should be meeting their patients' clinical needs at the moment."

David Delvin, who runs private clinics for people with psycho-sexual problems in London and Cambridge and has treated more than 100 patients with Viagra, said: "This drug is not being misused by silly people who want 16 orgasms a day. It is being used by people who are trying to pull their relationships together."

The typical patient was a man aged 45 to 70 who was

a man "struck down" that he could no longer have intercourse with his wife. "The blow to their confidence is colossal."

## Germ warfare 'could target ethnic groups'

BY CHARLES ARTHUR  
Technology Editor

can't be done", said Professor Vivienne Nathanson, the BMA's head of health policy and research. "But then after examining what is going on we decided that it might be possible after all."

The idea of "genetic weapons", which the panel said are at present just a theoretical possibility, added urgency to the need to add verification procedures to the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention. Though first signed in 1972 by the UK, US and Russia, and now having 140 signatory nations, the BWC differs from other weapons conventions in having no mechanisms for oversight, to ensure that signatories obey its rules.

Russia was among the countries that attempted to produce a genetically enhanced version of the anthrax virus during the Cold War. The Aum Shinrikyo religious terrorists in Japan also sought genetically to enhance bacteria they had acquired, but failed.

### Royal Academy of Arts

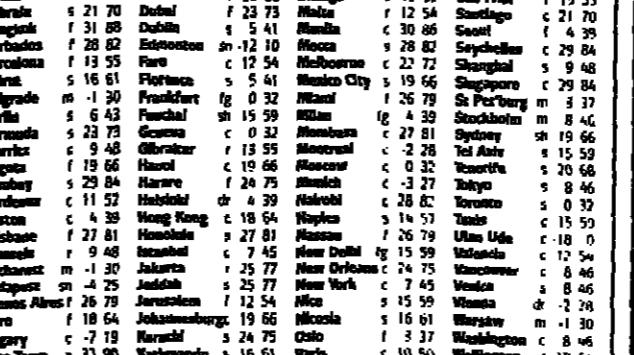
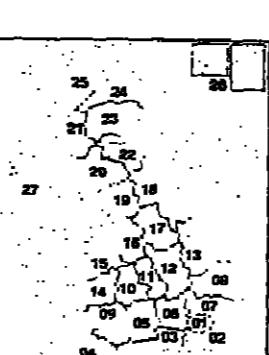
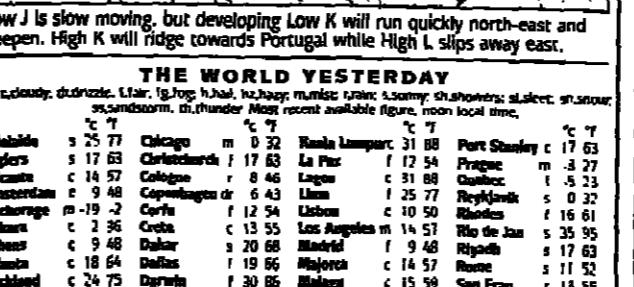
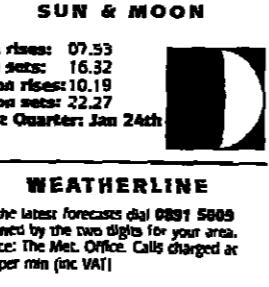
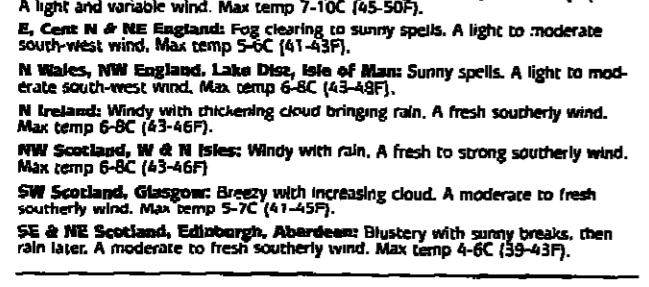
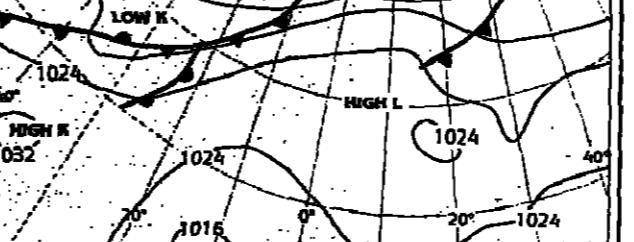
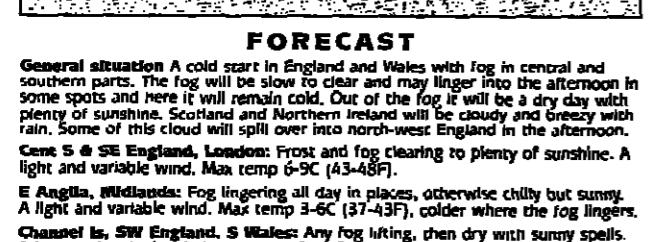
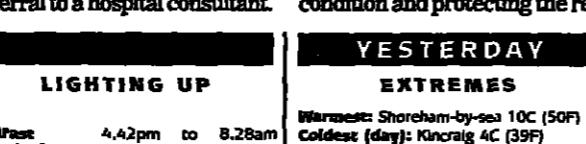
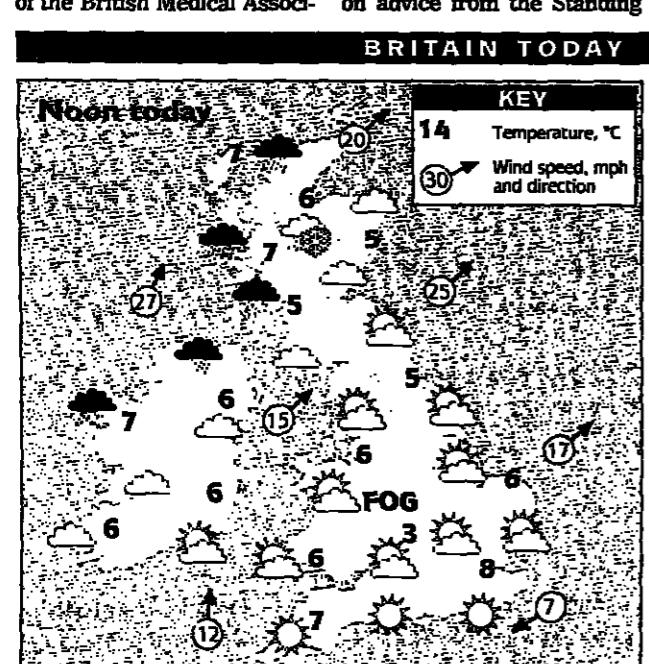
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THE END



# Gurkhas hunt for missing pupils

THE SEARCH for two 10-year-old girls who disappeared last on Tuesday morning intensified yesterday, with the Gurkhas and specialist police teams drafted in.

Detectives clung to the hope that the girls had gone on a "great adventure". But they confessed concern about the chances of finding the girls alive, with no confirmed sightings of Charlene Lunnon and Lisa Hoodless since they set off for Christchurch School, St Leonard's, near Hastings, East Sussex.

More than 400 officers, military police and Gurkhas from the Princess of Wales Own Regiment in Canterbury searched the town and surrounding rural areas yesterday.

Detective Superintendent Jeremy Paine of East Sussex Police, said the search was extended to the outskirts of London after several unconfirmed sightings of the two best friends

BY KATE WATSON-SMYTH  
in Plumstead, West Drayton and Ruislip.

Next month is the anniversary of the death of Charlene's mother, Sandra. Her ashes are at a crematorium in Ruislip, west London. The child may have wanted to go and see a plaque dedicated to her memory.

There were also suggestions that Lisa may have been anxious about her home life, but Det Supt Paine refused to elaborate. He disclosed that police were questioning registered paedophiles in the area, as well as investigating claims that the two girls had boasted about running away.

Searches of their houses indicated that they did not take any extra clothes with them. They were thought to be wearing school uniforms when they vanished.

"It could be a great adventure



Gurkhas of the 1st Battalion, Princess of Wales Regiment search clifftops above Hastings for the two girls missing since Tuesday PA

and they may come back," said Det Supt Paine. "My instinct is that they are in the London area, but as time goes on it gets more and more worrying."

Charlene's father, Keith, a drug and alcohol adviser, said she had very little money, hav-

ing already spent most of her weekly pocket money of £2.50.

Neighbours of the two families said yesterday that they feared the worst. Peter Watson, who regularly saw the two girls on their way to school, said: "It may have started as an adven-

ture but it has gone on too long now."

Nicola Woolcott, who has five children and who has lived in St Leonard's all her life, said: "An adventure would be over by now. They would have wanted their beds, their dinner

and their mothers. We have all thought about running away but most of us come back when it gets dark."

As darkness fell last night the girls' parents were preparing to spend their third night without news of their children.

Det Supt Paine said: "We still don't know if we are dealing with runaways or something more sinister. I must believe they are capable of sustaining themselves away from home for so long because the alternative does not bear thinking about."

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## IN BRIEF

### Glitter in court on sex charges

GLAM ROCKER Gary Glitter, 54, appeared in Bristol Crown Court yesterday facing charges of sexual offences involving a girl and 50 charges relating to photos of children. The star, a father of two, spoke only to confirm his name. He was remanded on bail for two months.

### Thief jailed after TV-show gaffe

A THIEF was jailed for two years after his victim saw him on television. John Parsons, who stole antiques from Pamela McMahon while helping her move home, became a gay-rights campaigner and was invited on to a chat show. Miss McMahon was watching, and recognised him.

### Second Legionnaires' death

HEALTH OFFICIALS are investigating after a second patient died from Legionnaires' disease in a South Wales town. The 59-year-old woman from Aberdare, who has not been named, had been in a critical condition for more than a week at Prince Charles Hospital, Merthyr Tydfil.

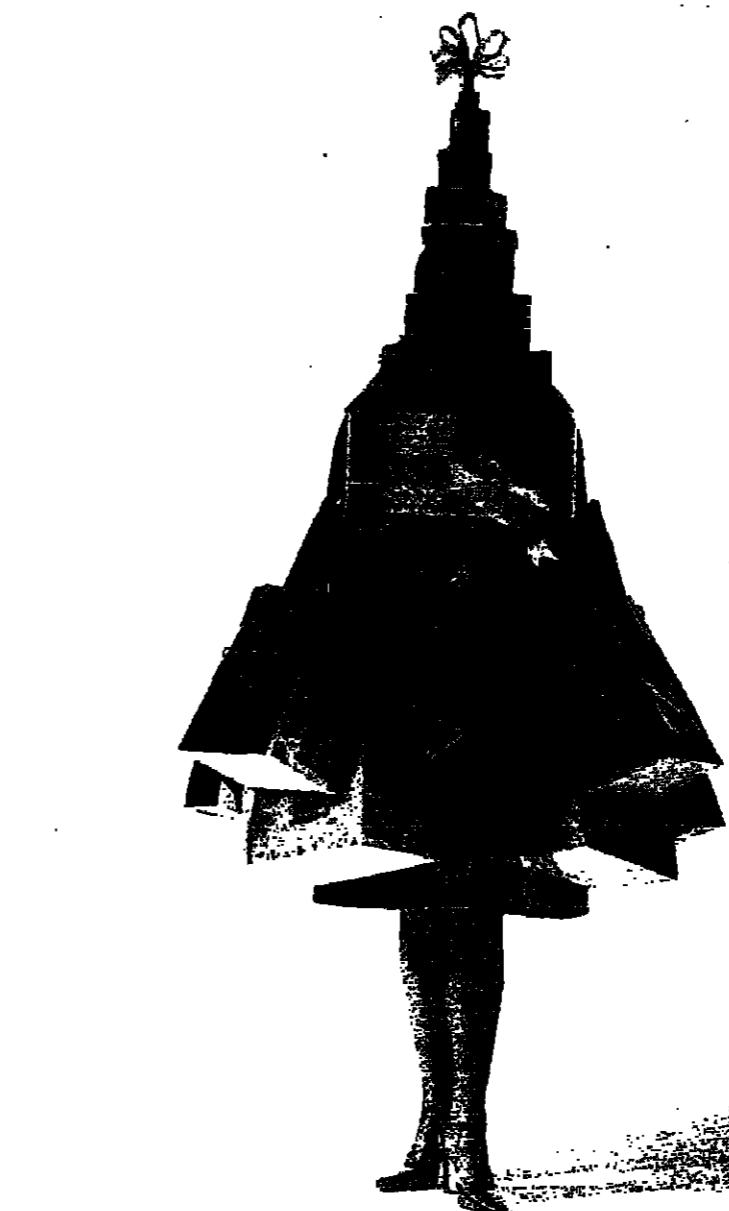
### Jam jar savers hoard £380m

BRITAIN IS a nation of hoarders with more than £380m stored in jam jars and piggy banks, according to a Gallup survey for Yorkshire Bank published yesterday. But the habit loses the savers at least £4.75m interest every year. One-third of the population have no savings at all.

### Scientists cream off £720,000

HUDDERSFIELD UNIVERSITY scientists have won a £720,000 European grant to research how to use natural organisms rather than starches to make yoghurt creamy.

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HEAL'S WINTER SALE  
ENDS SUNDAY 24TH JANUARY

BA

Charity giving falls by a third

BY LOUISE JURY

INDIVIDUAL DONATIONS to charity have plunged by almost one-third in the last five years, according to figures revealed yesterday.

The National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO) said donations had dropped by 31 per cent in real terms since 1993 to £4.5bn, despite the fact that a huge majority of people believe it is important to support charities.

Research carried out for the NCVO found that nine out of ten people said it was important to give time and money to charity, but fewer than half had donated cash in the last month. Just 8 per cent had given any time. Nearly half of people in social classes A and B said they would give more if the tax system added to their donation and one-third of 35- to 44-year-olds who do not give would be encouraged to do so by a tax incentive.

Stuart Etherington, the NCVO's chief executive, pleaded with the public to turn good intentions into positive action to avert a crisis in the voluntary sector. He was backed by the Prime Minister who called for "an explosion in giving" - in time as well as money.

Speaking at the NCVO's annual conference in east London yesterday, Tony Blair pledged £73m of government money to encourage and expand volunteering schemes. He further announced the creation of a m "active community unit" to work across government departments, raising the profile of the voluntary sector.

Mr Etherington said the British public had long supported the voluntary sector, but that support had reached a crossroads. "While the vast majority of the population believes it is extremely important to support charities and the work they do, this is not always translated into donations either of time or money," he said.

He said the Government's help was needed and that the volunteering initiatives should foster more involvement by the public but they should be supported by tax breaks. A review of charity tax has been promised for nearly two years.

The Government yesterday awarded £48m to the Millennium Volunteers scheme, which was piloted by the Community Service Volunteers to encourage the involvement of a new generation. A further £25m will encourage volunteer schemes involving older people and the black community.

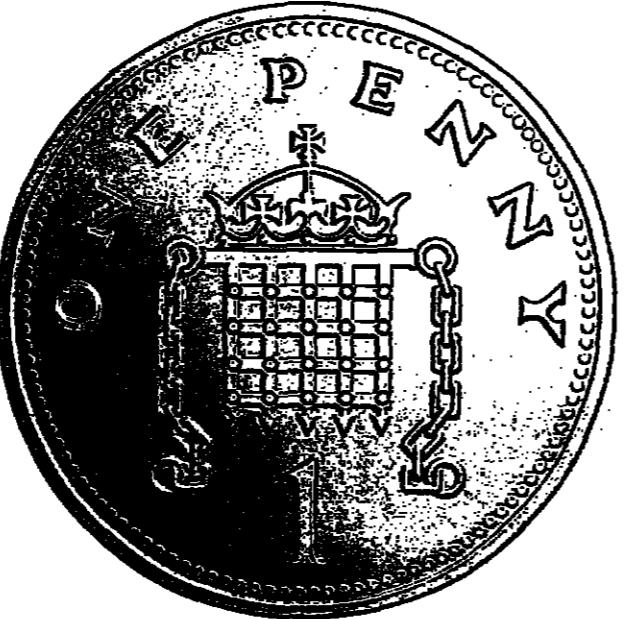
Leading article, Review, page 3

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Paddy Ashdown catches up with coverage of his resignation yesterday before appearing on GMTV John Vos



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# Call for unity as election kicks off

THE RACE to succeed Paddy Ashdown as Liberal Democrat leader began yesterday despite his attempts to ban campaigning until he stands down in June.

Some senior party members are worried that Mr Ashdown's surprise announcement will create six months of turmoil and distract the party from the May elections to local authorities, the Scottish and Welsh assemblies and the European Parliament poll, which will be Mr Ashdown's swansong.

The Liberal Democrats are urgently drawing up a code of conduct for candidates in the hope of avoiding a damaging display of disunity which could reduce their election prospects.

Baroness Maddock, the party president, who will oversee the election, will urge MPs not to criticise each other or appear together on television and

BY ANDREW GRICE  
Political Correspondent

radio programmes, so they cannot be portrayed as rivals.

Potential candidates will be told not to declare their intention to run "formally or informally" until Mr Ashdown has stood down. "We cannot afford the distraction of electioneering for the leadership while the campaign for this year's crucial elections is in progress," said Lady Maddock.

But it was clear yesterday it will be difficult for the Liberal Democrats to hold the line, as "friends" of the candidates eagerly talked up their chances so as not to be stuck in the starting blocks in June.

Some were critical of Mr Ashdown for leaving a six-month vacuum. "I don't understand why he could not have announced his decision as soon

as the Euro elections were over," said one potential leadership candidate. "We don't need a six-month campaign."

It emerged yesterday that Mr Ashdown's successor may not be elected by the party's 90,000 members until September. Officials believe there may not be enough time to run a contest between the Euro poll in June and the August summer break. The new leader would then have a "coronation" at the party's annual conference at Harrogate in September.

The Liberal Democrat spring conference, in Edinburgh in March, will inevitably become a "beauty contest" for the candidates. "The important thing is that they don't overtly fight each other, which would damage the party," said one party source.

Only two weeks ago, Mr Ashdown's aides dismissed speculation that he might be forced to resign this year by saying he believed there was no capable

candidate ready to take over. "We are not exactly blessed with a galaxy of stars," one insider admitted last night.

This could strengthen the claims of Menzies Campbell, at 38 the oldest of the potential runners, who might well offer his services as the man to take the party through the next general election, allowing younger pretenders to win more plaudits.

One MP said the "smart money" was on Mr Campbell because he would appeal to MPs elected in 1997 who might also be reluctant to back a younger man.

Mr Campbell, the party's foreign affairs spokesman, was doing nothing to discourage speculation that he would run yesterday. Although close to Mr Ashdown, he said that, while the Liberal Democrats would continue to co-operate with the Government where they agreed, they opposed it for not spending enough on health and education. Nick Harvey, the campaigns chief who is seen as Mr Ashdown's favoured successor, said the agreement with Labour would survive but not in exactly the same way because "the personal chemistry is obviously a considerable part of it".

Simon Hughes, the only contender who voted against Mr Ashdown's decision to forge closer links with Mr Blair last November, admitted he had "fallen out" with his leader over the policy.

## Still a hero to Tinkers Bubble folk

BY ANDREW BUNCOMBE

in his late 30s when he took over as their Liberal prospective parliamentary candidate, holding surgeries and writing to government departments and other institutions when he believed one of his "constituents" had been wronged.

The alternative community at Tinkers Bubble near Norton sub Hamdon in Somerset, has good reason to like Paddy too. When they sought planning permission to build naturally resourced homes on the 40-acre site they bought six years ago, Mr Ashdown was a key supporter. He may not have been as vocal as they would have liked during the row that ran for years, but he made clear he could see nothing wrong with an alternative community living off the land – even if it was in his own back yard. "The other Christmas he came up here with a bottle of wine for us," said Mr Baehr. "He walked up from his house on the Christmas morning. He never slagged us off and was always friendly. The impression he gives is of a straight-up guy. He talks sense. People like that about him."

These are opinions you hear often in Yeovil when you ask about Paddy Ashdown. He was

in a damp wood a mile or two up the valley from Paddy Ashdown's house, Bob Baehr was coppicing hazel trees. "Yes, I'll be sorry to him go," said Mr Baehr offering a mug of home-pressed apple juice. "I think he is a popular person – people are around here like him."

The alternative community at Tinkers Bubble near Norton sub Hamdon in Somerset, has good reason to like Paddy too.

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porter. He may not have been as vocal as they would have liked during the row that ran for years, but he made clear he could see nothing wrong with an alternative community living off the land – even if it was in his own back yard.

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The impression he gives is of a straight-up guy. He talks sense. People like that about him."

These are opinions you hear often in Yeovil when you ask about Paddy Ashdown. He was

## No lament in Scottish HQ

BY STEPHEN GOODWIN  
Scotland Correspondent

"Anyone who aspires to be leader will undoubtedly want to play an active role in the (Scottish) Parliament election campaign," Mr Wallace said. But he warned would-be leaders against putting personal ambition above the party. "Anyone who tries to take advantage of the election in a way that does damage to the party or side-tracks the campaign, there will be a premium to be paid for that," he said.

Officials are looking forward to the contest bringing the party more media attention. Mr Wallace was speaking at a press launch of the agenda for the Scottish party's conference in Aberdeen next month.

Because of Mr Ashdown's departure, the meeting was packed and a band of photographers recorded the phoenix flag being hoisted. "Raising the standard" will be Liberal Democrats' election slogan – pledging the party to raise standards in politics, schools and hospitals.

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COMPLICATIONS have over the release of two and four Dutch hostages taken last week by Islamists.

The kidnappers demanding the release of members of their tribe held in a mountainous region. But they will not be the last to do so. An agreement can be reached with the family of their latest victim over the payment of a ransom of \$1 million, as a token Yemeni sources say.

Eddie and Mary British aid workers were held hostage with their wife and two children by members of the Baluchi tribal alliance who stopped their road between the Sanaa and Sodah.

Negotiations broke earlier in the week over the question of the release of the four Dutch hostages. The families of the victims in Yemen now demand the killers' execution unless they are paid compensation under tribal law.

The hostages are being treated and there is no immediate threat to their safety according to reports from negotiators.

Meanwhile an exodus is beginning among the 500 British community in Yemen, half of whom work for oil companies. The Foreign Office advised British nationals in Yemen "to consider whether their presence is absolutely essential and, if not, to leave". It points out that 11 members of the group that killed the hostages – three Britons

Chippie chimp

MARY CHIPPERFIELD, famed circus trainer, keeps her chimpanzee in "fear and despair", an animal expert says.

Dr Jane Goodall said a month-old animal called Tuan had been caged in an "unappropriate fashion" after training quarters near Dover in Hampshire.

Ms Chipperfield, 51, and her husband Roger Cawley deny 28 animal cruelty charges at Croft Farm, Middle Wal-

Undercover activists from Animal Defenders International infiltrated Mary Chipperfield Promotions Ltd last year and shot 500 hours of secret videos.

Dr Goodall had watched the chimpanzee appear to be beaten and forced to stand in cramped cage where it was to spend 14 hours a day.

She said: "That young chimpanzee has been put through con-



Corporal Tim Lake, of the Princess's of Wales Own Regiment, standing guard as Fort Whiterock is demolished

Crispin Rodwell

## Hostages in blood money stand-off

**COMPLICATIONS** have arisen over the release of two British and four Dutch hostages kidnapped last week by Yemeni tribesmen.

The kidnappers are demanding the release of two members of their tribe being held in jail on a murder charge. But they will not be freed unless agreement can be reached with the family of their alleged victim over the payment of "blood money" as compensation, Yemeni sources say.

Eddie and Mary Rosser, British aid workers, were taken hostage with Hans Koolstra, his wife and two children, by members of the Bakil tribal federation who stopped their car on the road between the capital Sanaa and Sadah.

Negotiations broke down earlier in the week over the question of the release of two members of the tribe held for murder. The families of murder victims in Yemen normally demand the killers' execution unless they are paid compensation under tribal law.

The hostages are being well-treated and there is no immediate threat to their safety, according to reports from the negotiators.

Meanwhile an exodus is beginning among the 500-strong British community in Yemen, half of whom work for oil companies. The Foreign Office has advised British nationals in Yemen "to consider whether their presence is absolutely essential and, if not, to leave". It points out that 11 members of the group that killed four hostages - three Britons and one Australian - on 28 December are still at large.

BY PATRICK COCKBURN  
in Sanaa

The new Foreign Office advice says those who remain in Yemen should review their security arrangements and "avoid all travel on roads outside the main town". The oil companies provide armed guards for their employees and, in some cases, have forbidden them even to visit downtown Sanaa or big hotels such as the Taj Sheba and the Sheraton, where foreigners congregate.

British exports to Yemen were only £77m in 1998 and there are no British companies with large staffs in the country. While British tourists do visit Yemen, most tourism is from Italy, Germany and France.

Other foreign embassies in Sanaa were taking a more relaxed view. One west European diplomat said: "Maybe the British have perceived that they are targets and are in a different position from ourselves."

Although there have been three different kidnappings involving British citizens since late December it is unclear if they are being deliberately selected. In the most recent cases, the evidence is that they were not. The oil worker John Brooke was taken hostage on 9 January when he challenged a man who had entered the company compound. The kidnappers who ambushed Mr and Mrs Rosser were apparently intent on taking prisoner the first foreigners they saw.

## Chipperfield kept chimp 'in fear'

**MARY CHIPPERFIELD**, the famed circus trainer, kept a baby chimpanzee in "fear and despair", an animal expert told a court yesterday.

Dr Jane Goodall said an 18-month-old animal, called Trudy, had been caged in an "utterly inappropriate fashion" at a winter training quarters near Andover in Hampshire.

Ms Chipperfield, 61, and her husband Roger Cawley, 64, deny 28 animal cruelty charges at Croft Farm, Middle Wallop.

Undercover activists from Animal Defenders infiltrated Mary Chipperfield Promotions Ltd last year and shot 300 hours of secret videos.

Dr Goodall had watched film of the chimpanzee apparently being beaten and forced into a cramped cage where it was said to spend 14 hours a day.

She said: "That young chimp has been put through consid-

erable trauma and to leave her there in a cage by herself, hurting and frightened, that to me is very cruel. The chimp was being treated in a way which I would describe as very cruel."

Dr Goodall helps to run four sanctuaries for orphaned chimpanzees in Africa.

The trial continues.

In Wednesday's *Independent* we wrongly stated that Richard Chipperfield, who was attacked by a tiger in Florida last year, was Mary Chipperfield's son. Neither Richard Chipperfield nor Nigel Wesson, whose arm was bitten off by a tiger last year, is connected with Mary Chipperfield. We have been asked to make it clear that Chipperfield Circus, run by Chipperfield Enterprises Limited, has no business connection with Mary Chipperfield.

## Symbol of Ulster's Troubles is razed

THE BIG wrecking cranes are busy at Fort Whiterock in west Belfast, slowly, methodically and with permission, doing what the IRA tried so hard to do for so many years: razing the army outpost.

By summer there should be nothing left except level ground and a couple of disused buildings to mark the spot where for two decades soldiers ate, slept and led a perilous existence on the edge of Western Europe's most dangerous districts.

Fort Whiterock has since 1979 been perched on the lower slopes of the Black Mountain, overlooking the Falls and the rest of west Belfast, the sentries in its hi-tech turrets on the lookout for attack. Its soldiers have been sent out into the dangerous streets of Ballymurphy, New Barnsley and Turl Lodge, where numbers of them were killed and injured. It was a patrolling base, a heavily fortified installation nesting near the republican estates.

Its closure is a result of the

BY DAVID MCKITTRICK  
Ireland Correspondent

Good Friday Agreement, which envisages a gradual rundown of security if the republican and loyalist ceasefires hold. The IRA may show no sign of decommissioning its weapons, but the military presence is being gently wound down.

But there are still plenty of big army and RUC bases in Northern Ireland. While Fort Whiterock is being dismantled, the Army says other patrolling bases are available to it. Routine patrolling is now pretty much confined to some border difficult areas: troops are no longer generally seen in Belfast and elsewhere.

Demolition of such a base is lengthy business, for large amounts of concrete and metal were needed to keep the IRA at bay. When *The Independent* visited six years ago, most of its four-and-a-half acres were protected by a superstructure consisting of miles of protective

scaffolding to fend off mortars and other projectiles. Yesterday most of this had been reduced to heaps of struts and girders waiting to be carted away.

Only a few military traces remain: a poster warning "Keep your eyes peeled"; a King's Own Scottish Borderers logo; a flaking picture of a lion painted by a Highland regiment.

The cranes will soon be demolishing the mess area, where the canteen was criss-crossed with brick walls to limit casualties from bomb blasts. They will go the spartan accommodation blocks where men slept six to a noisy room, the rooms branching off long, echoing corridors.

Those corridors were yesterday irresistibly reminiscent, in their concrete walls and institutional paint, of another security installation, the Maze prison. It too is heading for closure as the prisoners, like the troops, are being sent home, in the hope that this time the Troubles really are ending.

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# Bloodstained banknotes from the gallery of rogues

ARRIVING IN the House yesterday I was surprised to find it looking rather more dishevelled than is usually the case. Scattered across the floor in front of the mace was a thin drift of bloodstained banknotes. The odd sheet, obeying the famously wayward aerodynamics of paper money, had lodged on the back benches or on the table in front of the Speaker's chair.

It made for an intriguing picture and every now and then a newcomer would arrive and inspect one of the notes hopefully, before discovering that it had been issued by the Bank of Radical Indignation and laying it down again with a dis-

pointed air. It looked as if some corrupt backbencher's wallet had exploded without warning. The truth was more mundane, naturally. Two men in the public gallery had dropped this filthy lucre to protest at arms sales to Indonesia, an outrage for which they were promptly hustled from the gallery.

Thoroughly deplorable, but I have to confess to a certain dismay at missing the moment of launch. It left me feeling a bit like a dedicated Loch Ness watcher who nips off to restock his caravanette-cum-observation post only to find that the monster has been posing for pictures with its baby while he's been gone.

I've been waiting months for someone to throw something from the public gallery. Indeed, it's one of the consoling fantasies of the sketch-writer's life to gaze across at the other end of this occasionally suffocating space and imagine one of those anonymous figures rising up and hurling a missile into the chamber. Sometimes the imaginary ammunition will be relatively benign but at other times, usually when some smirking Labour backbencher is busy oiling the wheels of their own career, the mind will arm that innocent-looking tourist with something more serious — perhaps a Heckler and Koch machine-gun

locked on full auto. It isn't just stale rhetoric that conjures these aggressive day-dreams. It's as much

the House's sense of its own dignity, a strangely malleable solemnity that can absorb the lazy slouch of frontbench Tories, propping their feet on the dispatch table with a patrician loutsiness, or even the closing-time rowdiness of over-excited MPs, but which trembles in afront at the thought of a tie-less reporter or a member of the public writing something down on a sheet of paper.

Perhaps sensitised by that first outrage against parliamentary propriety, the Liberal Democrat MP Peter Brand denounced one of my colleagues to a clerk for chewing nicotine gum in the reporters' gallery, masochistic insolence that

clearly could not pass unchallenged. One assault on democracy is quite enough for a single day.

He can perhaps be forgiven for seeking distraction from the debate — a grinding inspection of clauses and amendments to the Road Traffic Bill for which, at one point, the three main parties had mustered four, three and two MPs respectively.

These kind of numbers do strange things to the chemistry of the chamber. The same constituent elements are mixed together and the same kind of friction takes place but combustion is all impossible. When John Hutton refused to give way to Evan Harris,

the thwarted MP blinked with feigned amazement and looked around for support. If the House had been full he would have been rewarded with pantomime "ooohhh" but yesterday, not a murmur. The only relief from the proceedings lay in counting the number of times Liberal Democrats were teased about their prospects in the impending leadership campaign.

Already weary of this limited joke, Dr Harris expressed the hope that honourable members would soon become bored with it too. I fear he has greatly underestimated his colleagues' heroic capacity to withstand tedium.

## THE SKETCH



THOMAS SUTCLIFFE

# Cook defends foreign policy as 'radical'

ROBIN COOK will hit back at his Labour critics today by saying that Britain's "tough" foreign policy is in tune with the left's traditions.

Mr Cook's speech will be seen as a defence of his support for the British and American bombing of Iraq last month and another signal that the West will soon launch military action against Serbia over its actions in Kosovo.

Some Labour MPs have accused Mr Cook of betraying his roots in the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament by endorsing Tony Blair's hawkish strategy.

But the Foreign Secretary will declare: "Those of us on the left of centre believe passionately in the rule of law, human rights, democracy and freedom."

"We have a strong tradition for standing up for these values, but we can do so only through a robust approach to the world and a resolve to stand up to those who threaten peace and stability."

Giving the Ernest Bevin Memorial Lecture, commemo-

### FOREIGN AFFAIRS

By ANDREW GRICE

Political Editor

rating the former trade union leader who became foreign secretary in the postwar Labour government, Mr Cook said: "Bevin was a man of the left ... but he never confused a love of peace with weakness."

"He knew in a tough world it was not enough just to be right."

The Foreign Secretary said that Bevin understood one important truth — weakness was not a left-wing virtue, and a peaceful and secure world could not be built on a foundation of weakness.

Mr Cook added: "Bevin knew that standing up to dictators, defending freedoms and enforcing the rule of law was a left-wing cause."

The speech came as Mr Blair and his ministers stepped up their preparations for military action in Kosovo after the killing of 45 ethnic Albanians last weekend.

The Prime Minister was due to speak to President Bill Clin-

ton last night and officials from the Contact Group of powers on the Balkans meet in London today. They are Britain, the US, France, Italy, Germany and Russia.

The Prime Minister confirmed in a telephone call to Gerhard Schröder, the German Chancellor, and current holder of the European Union's rotating presidency, that force may have to be used against the Yugoslav President, Slobodan Milošević.

However, Mr Blair and Mr Schröder also agreed that military action against the backdrop of a political vacuum in Kosovo could prove futile.

Downing Street said there was a "large convergence of views" that President Milošević's behaviour had been "unacceptable". But the two leaders also agreed that the Kosovo Liberation Army had been "provocative".

In a further sign that military intervention is looming, the crisis in Kosovo dominated yesterday's meeting of the Cabinet in London.

Kosovo crisis, page 12



Tony Blair signing autographs in London yesterday at the launch of the Millennium Awards Fellowship which recognises the voluntary efforts of people in community projects given lottery grants

Tom Craig

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# Air traffic control sell-off should be delayed, say MPs

THE GOVERNMENT'S £1bn plan to privatisate air traffic control should be put on hold until a new centre which is set to improve safety and reduce delays is opened, a committee of MPs urged yesterday.

They argued that any decision to opt for a public-private partnership should be deferred until the Swinwick project in Hampshire, the site of the new air traffic control centre for Britain, was up and running because presently there was "little confidence" in the service's accuracy. They found that average air traffic delays had increased from 14 to 17 minutes during the last year.

The date for the completion of the £475m Swinwick centre

### TRANSPORT

By SARAH SCHAEFER

is uncertain because there have been problems with its software and the opening, originally scheduled for 1996, has slipped back to 2002. Until the Swinwick centre was opened, MPs said, the Government should consider restructuring the National Air Traffic Services within the public sector.

The report by the Environment, Transport and the Regions Select Committee coincided with advice by the Civil Aviation Authority that a "safe and efficient" air traffic service could be under threat if the NATS were split up. Sir Malcolm Field, the CAA chairman

said in a letter that a break-up of the present system would result in higher costs to customers and "even increase flight delays". Privatisation of air traffic services has been controversial since before the last general election. It was opposed by Labour under the Tories but the leadership swung behind it during the campaign. Dr John Reid, the Transport minister, said in his evidence to the committee that he was in favour of the public-private partnership if the time for a sell-off was right so that the taxpayer would get best value for money.

He suggested that legislation to implement the privatisation could be passed before the next general election, but only enacted "at the appropriate time". MPs also urged regular checks on the health and morale of air traffic controllers amid a safety threat because of their increasing workload.

The Government launched a crackdown on airport security breaches across Britain yesterday amid recent allegations that a contract cleaning firm at Heathrow gave out a temporary access pass without checking the employee's references.

Dr John Reid, the Transport minister, said "only one breach" of security could cost lives and ordered that all security passes from Skyline's temporary staff be withdrawn pending an inquiry.

# Prescott lines up with New Labour

### PARTY POLICY

By COLIN BROWN

Chief Political Correspondent

achieved the radical new forms

of public-private partnership, recycling of road user charges, "green" principles in our code of taxation or the emphasis on increasing capital investment," he told a conference of the Centre for Local Economic Studies.

"We believe that a thriving economy and social justice are two sides of the same coin," he said. "I am proud to be a proponent of Labour's traditional values. But I am equally proud to be a champion of new thinking and modern methods, to achieve our aims in a modern way. Ignore all the journalistic prattle. Look at what my department is doing — putting New Labour principles into practical action."

The Deputy Prime Minister also reinforced the message that he has forged a close working relationship with Gordon Brown. He said the Chancellor's comprehensive spending review, which led to the redistribution of more than £40bn to health and education, was a "tremendous credit" to Mr Brown. "Without Gordon Brown we would not have

Dismissed media coverage

of the Government's "black Christmas" as "the politics of soap opera", Mr Prescott said: "I believe that the media concentration on gossip and personalities directly follows from the inability to sustain a serious attack on our policies."

MEASURES TO encourage town halls to find the efficient ways to provide housing services to address homelessness, private sector renewal and energy efficient

housing were launched by Housing Minister Hilary Armstrong as part of the Government's Best Value initiative.

### No conflict

STEPS HAVE been taken to ensure there was no conflict of interest for junior trade and industry minister Lord Sainsbury of Turville, Trade

Secretary Stephen Byers said, after Tories demanded to take responsibility for policy on genetically modified food away from him because he had stakes in companies involved in genetic research.

### THE HOUSE



### Value initiative

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ONE OF the most well-known fossils of a dinosaur — giving a clear idea of the animal's internal organs — has been revealed that it was a carnivore that lived in the late Cretaceous period, about 65 million years ago. The fossil, which was found in a limestone rock in the United States, shows the remains of a large theropod, possibly a Tyrannosaurus rex, with a long neck and a small head. The fossil is believed to be a complete skeleton, including the skull, bones, and skin.

A study of the fossil suggests that the animal was a carnivore, with a diet consisting mainly of meat. The fossil also shows that the animal had a large brain, suggesting that it was intelligent and had good memory. The fossil is believed to be a complete skeleton, including the skull, bones, and skin.

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# PC WORLD SALE

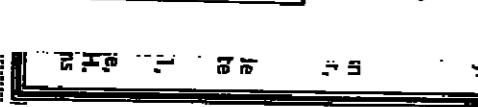
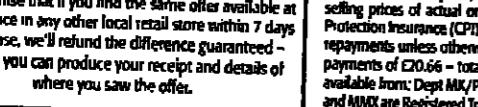
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Technology: Traditional children's favourite in trouble as computer mania hits everything from shares to toys



Lego has been hit by the growth of computer toys such as Sony's Playstation

John Lawrence

# Lego lays off 1,000 as toys go digital

**BY FRANCESCO GUERRERA**  
LEGO, THE legendary maker of toy bricks, is to scrap 1,000 jobs worldwide in a move to fight competition from electronic games and restore its crumbling finances.

The sweeping restructuring, announced yesterday, comes after a year in which the Danish group's performance was hit by the huge growth in a new breed of computer games, such as those carried by Sony's Playstation. Industry experts say most children have ditched Lego's old fashioned bricks, which have remained virtually unchanged for half a century, for high-tech games.

The company tried to bridge the gap last year with the launch of Lego Mindstorms, an "intelligent" brick fitted with a microchip that can be built into

a moving robot. Lego's efforts to get rid of its staid image also saw the Danish company tie up with Walt Disney to market Winnie the Pooh and with the film director George Lucas to sell toys modelled on the Star Wars characters.

However, analysts believe that Lego's marketing efforts are doomed unless the company reforms its internal workings. The company said yesterday that its inefficient corporate structure and difficult market conditions would push it into the red for the first time in its 67-year history.

The firm said the job cuts were needed to stop the slide in sales and profits. In a letter to the group's 10,000 employees,

Kjeld Kirk Kristiansen, Lego's billionaire owner, said the company needed a "fitness programme" to improve its financial health. "Just like athletes, before we begin our all-important task we have to slim down and improve our overall health," he said.

The programme would see the disappearance of 1,000 jobs in 30 countries. In Britain, Lego has about 300 employees, mainly in the Legoland Park in Windsor, Berkshire, and in its sales operation in Wrexham, Clwyd. A spokesman said it was "too early" to say where the axe would fall but a counselling centre would be set up to help with the stress of redundancy. "It's part of the Lego culture of being close to our staff."

Mr Kristiansen, whose per-

sonal fortune is estimated at about \$2.3bn (£1.4bn), said the cuts would come mainly among administrative staff to "create a new, simpler and above all more efficient business system".

Industry experts believe that Lego's bloated workforce is one of the reasons for its problems and it will not be able to reverse its poor performance in the short term. They estimate Lego will post a loss of about 200m Danish Krona (£19m) when it unveils its results for last year at the end of April.

Mr Kristiansen, the third generation of his family to run the firm, said Lego was not facing a crisis. "We will not deviate from our goal of being the world's strongest brand among families," he said.

Photo © Getty Images

## Experts warn of Internet share crash

THE LAUGHTER over Wall Street just now is almost audible. It erupts daily with the opening of the markets and if you listen carefully you will hear a million tongues chanting two magic words: Dot-com, they recite over and over, dot-com. It is the sound of unrestrained cheer and, it must be said, of high anxiety.

Warning came from one of the Street's best-known sages yesterday: this is a bubble that will surely burst. And indeed an abrupt sell-off of Internet stocks in New York yesterday sent the Nasdaq exchange plummeting by an ominous 3 per cent.

This is the season, the chapter in human history, that the world found the Internet. And went nuts over it. The rules that Wall Street has lived by for decades - such as calibrating stock values against earnings - have been thrown out. Investors want nothing of common sense and caution. Show them an Internet stock and they will buy it; never mind if the company has no earnings. The stars are well known.

**YAHOO**  
share price, pence  
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**SOTHEBY'S**  
share price, pence  
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1996 97 98 99  
Source: Datstream

They include Amazon.com, the virtual book and compact disc seller. It still loses money and, according to some analysts, has little immediate prospect of seeing any profits at all. And yet its stock rose 96 per cent last year. The company is now valued at \$18bn (£10.9bn). Add to your list Yahoo!, with its Internet directory site, the digital auction house eBay and the grandfather of online services, America Online.

Speaking up for those fearing a crash-landing for these investors is Barton Biggs, chairman of the Morgan Stanley bank and oracle of the markets. He warned, in particular, of the inexperienced in matters of the market among most of the investors who have been won over by the magic of the Net. "They are buying stocks strictly on the basis of their personal experience in the Internet," he said yesterday in a speech in Japan.

Founded only 1994, Yahoo!, that has the most popular portal site in the industry, offering one-click access to entertainment, news, online shopping and (of course) stock trading, is now worth twice the empire that Rupert Murdoch built. No wonder he tried this week to pour cold water on the Internet, suggesting it would destroy more companies than it created. Yahoo!, indeed is more valuable than General Motors.

The same sums can be made for America Online. The company, which recently made headlines gobbling up browser pioneer Netscape, is more valuable today than either DuPont, Chevron or Eastman Kodak.

**PHILIP HENSHER**  
We want a martyr; and martyrs aren't bitter, don't behave badly or have sex

IN THE FRIDAY REVIEW PAGE 4

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ALIZÉ

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# Clinton lawyers denounce evidence

WHITE HOUSE lawyers wound up their defence of President Bill Clinton in the Senate yesterday, protesting that the charges against him were flawed and on no account justified his removal from office.

The ousting of a democratically elected president, the defence argued, would be a unique and momentous decision out of all proportion to the offences alleged and the achievements of his presidency. The last president to be subject to Senate trial, Andrew Johnson in 1868, was acquitted by a single vote.

To bolster their case, in style as well as substance, the defence team had co-opted Dale Bumpers, the newly retired Democrat senator from Mr Clinton's home state of Arkansas, to deliver the closing statement. Mr Bumpers, whose departure from the Senate last year was lamented in Washington and in his home state equally as the end of an era, lent to the White House defence the flights of soaring rhetoric and lofty principle that its arguments had mostly lacked.

Mr Bumpers was valuable not only as a practised advocate in the style to which the Senate aspires, but as an Arkansan, familiar with the President's background and the political mores of his home state. According to Arkansas natives, the shenanigans in and around the capital, Little Rock, at least in the past, make whatever Bill Clinton was up to in the White House look like adolescent naivete.

Mr Bumpers' closing oration followed two-and-a-half days in which defence lawyers had concentrated on the small print of the allegations against the President to cast doubt, if not completely discredit, the charges against him. On the opening day, Charles Ruff, the White House chief counsel, had challenged the evidence that Mr Clinton had instigated the concealment of presents that he had given to Monica Lewinsky.

The following day, Gregory Craig had cast doubt on the specific perjury charges against

BY MARY DEJEVSKY  
in Washington

him, insisting that he never lied under oath, and Cheryl Mills - young, black and a White House deputy counsel - attacked the obstruction of justice charges and pleaded Mr Clinton's civil rights record in mitigation of his non-offences. Ms Mills, whose impassioned performance made her an overnight star in Washington, moved some senators close to tears with her defence of the "civil rights" President.

Yesterday, though, belonged to Dale Bumpers, whose contribution brought to a close six days of presentations - three by the House of Representatives' "prosecutors" and three by the White House - that have been increasingly lauded as attaining the height of judicial professionalism. They have also left the case exceptionally finely balanced, as prepared statements give way to two days of written questions from the senators.

Outside the Senate chamber - but perhaps even starting to seep inside - seemed to be a growing view that the trial might, after all, be concluded without calling "live" witnesses. Some believed that the combination of doubt cast on the evidence and Mr Clinton's triumphant State of the Union address combined to make the case against him unanswerable. Others felt that witnesses might be questioned by lawyers but that their answers would be sufficient, without the need for them to appear in person.

With even one of the President's fiercest critics, the right-wing evangelist Pat Robertson, saying publicly that in his view it was "all over" and that Mr Clinton's State of the Union address had clinched it, the prospect of conviction looked even slimmer than before.

On Monday, the 100 senators are scheduled to vote on whether to dismiss the case or continue the hearing of witnesses. The trial looks likely to continue.

## PROSECUTION

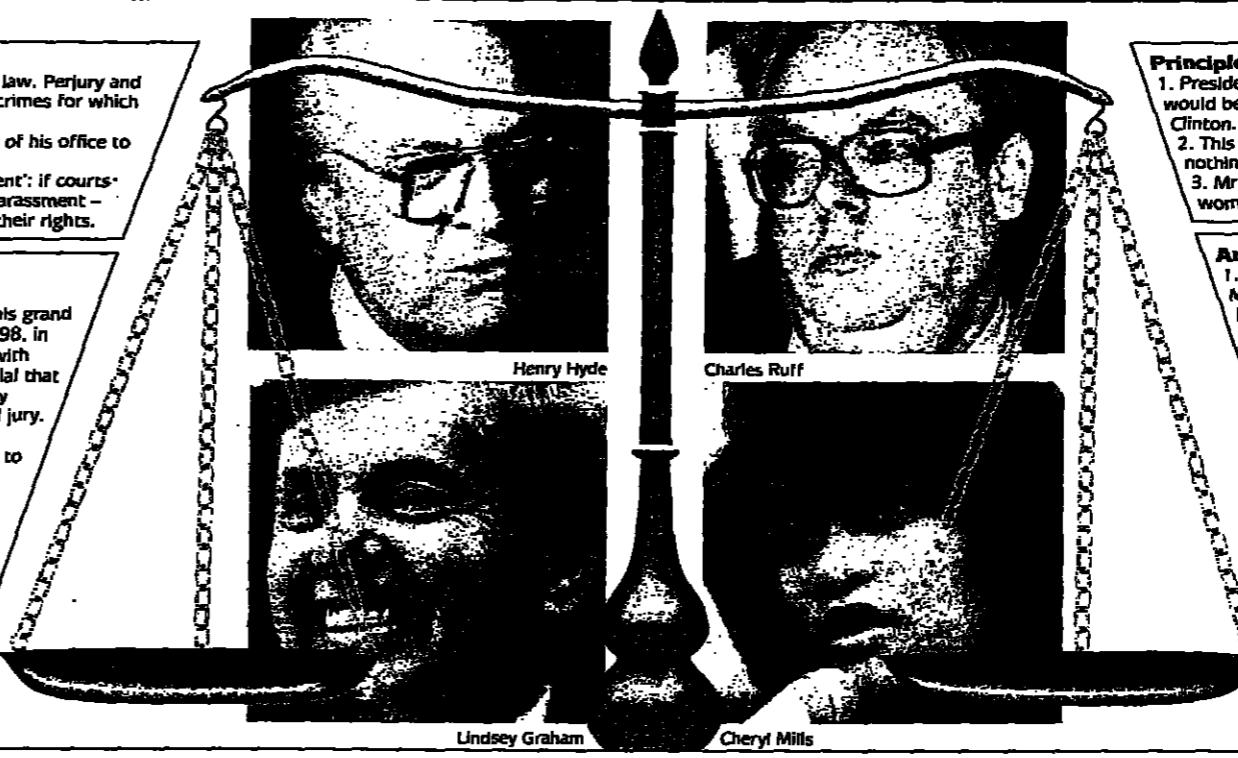
**Principles**  
1 Presidents are not above the law. Perjury and obstructing justice are serious crimes for which others have been imprisoned.  
2 Mr Clinton abused the power of his office to obstruct justice.  
3 Lying about sex is not "different": if courts tolerated it, victims of sexual harassment - primarily women - would lose their rights.

## Articles of Impeachment

1 Perjury  
Mr Clinton perjured himself in his grand jury testimony of 17 August 1998, in his account of his relationship with Monica Lewinsky and in his denial that he "coached" his secretary, Betty Currie, in what to tell the grand jury.  
2 Obstruction of Justice  
Mr Clinton concocted a scheme to deprive Paula Jones of her recourse to justice in her sexual harassment case. He persuaded Monica Lewinsky to sign an affidavit denying their relationship.

**The Constitution**  
Perjury and obstruction of justice do "rise to the level of high crimes and misdemeanours".

## HOW THE PRESIDENT'S FUTURE HANGS IN THE BALANCE



## DEFENCE

**Principles**  
1 Presidents are not "below" the law: no one would be convicted on the evidence against Mr Clinton.  
2 This case is about private conduct, and has nothing to do with the office of the presidency.  
3 Mr Clinton's record on minority, civil and women's rights has been second to none.

## Articles of Impeachment

1 Perjury  
Mr Clinton was truthful in his evidence: he admitted an "inappropriate" relationship; his admission to "occasional" meetings and contacts was correct, and he did not "coach" Mrs Currie.  
2 Obstruction of Justice  
There was no scheme, just an embarrassed husband trying to conceal an affair. The deception was unconnected with the Paula Jones case. Mr Clinton did not instigate the hiding of gifts.

**The Constitution**  
Impeachment is part-political, part-judicial. The charges, even if proved, do not warrant removing a highly competent President from office.

## Row over heir to 'Star Wars'

BY ANDREW MARSHALL  
in Washington

THE UNITED States has sparked a dispute with Russia over Washington's plans for a new anti-missile system, bringing a whiff of the Cold War back to relations with Moscow.

The new threat is not Russia, however, but what the US calls "rogue states" - such as North Korea - which it suspects of having missiles capable of reaching the American mainland. The National Missile Defence is the heir of Star Wars, the plan by former president Ronald Reagan to use space-based interceptors and ground systems to make the US invulnerable to missile attack. The latest scheme is a much smaller version, based on ground interceptor missiles.

But the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) Treaty, a landmark in arms control between Moscow and Washington, puts limits on systems. President Bill Clinton sent a letter to Moscow on Wednesday, saying he wanted to revise the treaty.

"We remain committed to the ABM treaty," the White House spokesman Joe Lockhart said. "We continue to discuss with the Russians, any steps that may need to be taken or any amendments that may need to be made as far as any future deployment of the national missile defence system."

But the Defense Secretary, William Cohen, indicated on

William Cohen: "The US could pull out of the treaty"

Wednesday that the US might go further. If the treaty could not be amended, he said, "then we have the option of [citing] our national interest, indicating we would simply pull out of the treaty".

Russia says now that if the US goes down this road, then it will block any further moves on arms limitation. "Any attempts to break out of the ABM treaty are regarded in the Defence Ministry as a violation of strategic stability," Colonel-General Leonid Ivashov, head of international cooperation in the ministry, told Interfax news agency.

Frank Ricciardone, a career diplomat, was yesterday appointed by the US to the new post of special representative for transition in Iraq. He will coordinate aid to opposition groups. But yesterday the Supreme Council for the Islamic Revolution in Iraq, which the US said would get assistance, said it did not want any American money.

## IN BRIEF

### Charter of EU rights planned

PLANS FOR a charter of rights to cover all 370 million European citizens were unveiled yesterday as a centrepiece of Germany's six-month EU presidency. Entitlements for all European nationals would be a significant development towards full EU citizenship.

### Savimbi claims vital capture

ANGOLA SLIPPED deeper into war yesterday after Unita rebels led by Jonas Savimbi claimed the capture of a crucial river bridge 30 miles from the northern city of Malanje and the oil town of Soyo. The government is stepping up its incursion in the capital, Luanda.

### Election landslide in Barbados

THE GOVERNMENT of Barbados has been returned to power with a landslide victory in which it secured 26 of the 28 parliamentary seats. The country has enjoyed five years of economic growth, and the Prime Minister, Owen Arthur, described the victory as an "awesome" responsibility.

# HOMEBASE

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# Napoleon letters found in drug raid

TWO LETTERS from Napoleon Bonaparte were found in a hoard of historic treasures when police cracked a British drug-trafficking ring and seized more than a ton of hashish and £3,440 in the Spanish resort of Benidorm.

Roy Davies, a former lorry driver from Wolverhampton, was arrested when the drugs and money were being loaded into a vehicle outside Benidorm in May 1997.

Police found old documents, manuscripts and other artefacts hidden in Davies's luxury villa nearby. The trove includes Papal Bulls from the 17th and 18th centuries and seals from Cromwell's Commonwealth of the 1650s. The haul was revealed this week when the investigating judge Baltasar Garzon lifted the condition of secrecy after the case was referred to Madrid's national court, which deals with drug trafficking. Davies is in prison in Alicante awaiting trial.

Benidorm's police chief, Antonio Perez, said: "All the signs are that the drug ring was keeping these documents with the intention of selling them at high prices either to collectors or in money-laundering operations to fund other drug dealers."

"We said the treasures may have been stolen two years ago from a British collector, but there was no firm evidence supporting that theory."

"I cannot say what they are worth," he added. "In one sense they are priceless, particularly to historians."

The hoard was in a wall safe at Davies's villa in the town of Alfaz del Pi, north of Benidorm. The raid was part of operation codenamed El Manco - Spanish for "one-

armed". Davies, who has lived in the area for nine years, has only one arm.

He also remains a suspect in an unresolved mafia-style killing of Jan Juri Slavinski, his former partner in a television equipment business.

Slavinski, 35, from a circus family in Hamilton, Scotland, was stabbed in a Benidorm villa in August 1996. Davies claims video footage proves he was in a Benidorm nightclub at the time of the murder.

The trove is being held in the vaults of a Benidorm bank until the national court decides what to do with it - or someone claims ownership.

There is no doubt of the authenticity of the two Napoleon letters. One was written in 1813 to his adopted son Eugene, son of his wife Josephine de Beauharnais from her previous marriage.

The English translation reads: "In Magdeburg there are 500 gendarmes ready to leave for Berlin where they will be supplied by the police of that great city", and concludes, "Your affectionate father". The other document was written in fact midnight at Budapest's Keleti (eastern) station.

Handwriting experts are reported to have described Napoleon's signature as "baroque and grandiloquent, out of proportion to the rest of the letter - denoting his megalomania".

The Papal Bulls were signed by Pope Clement IX in 1668 and Pope Benedict XIV in 1734. They are handwritten in Latin, and they refer to papal pardons, one of them granted to an Italian descendant of the Borgias.



A train pulling in at Arad station in Romania, across the border from Hungary. The journey east crosses a continent in transition, sometimes in chaos. Barry Lewis

## Journey to the centre of a lost world

### EUROPEAN TIMES

BUDAPEST

WISPS OF steam rise from the platforms, grey-white tendrils snaking a path into the night. Under the orange lamps, the station air is sharp with the smell of mitten-Europa, a heady cocktail of coal-burning fires, pungent cheap cigarettes and diesel fumes.

There is a sense of journeys now finished, and others yet to begin. The golden shadows from the lamps fall on a scene from a Thirties film noir or an Eric Ambler novel, but this is in fact midnight at Budapest's Keleti (eastern) station.

The staccato sound of the announcer is in sharp contrast to the babbles of passengers' voices. Here Hungarian, Romanian, Serbian, Russian and Ukrainian all mix together in a great east European linguistic goulash. The announcement of the next departure cuts through it like a blunt, hacking knife.

In the distance, locomotive wheels rattle on the maze of train lines that snake their way out of Keleti station, the hub of eastern Europe's rail network. The lines offer a sense of adventure over the horizon, hard to find on Britain's contemporary railways.

There are no delays here on the 8.14 to Vienna or Dresden because of the wrong kind of snow. Not even armed revolution or the wrong kind of government slows down the network. The departure board displays the destinations on offer: Istanbul, Kiev, Sofia, Moscow, St Petersburg, Warsaw, Prague, Bucharest, Bratislava, Berlin, Belgrade.

And each train journey encapsulates a different aspect of a continent in transition. Border crossings and customs checks reflect, it seems almost week by week, the rise and fall of governments, the flowering and fading of ideologies.

Just a few months ago, travellers to the Slovak capital,

tapping my face with his fist, calling me, extremely disconcertingly, his friend.

To our rescue came Bela, an ethnic Hungarian from the border region. Five feet tall and seemingly five feet wide, he picked up my "friend" and buried him 10 feet down the carriage. My relief soon turned to apprehension when the Russian returned with several friends and surrounded my

stretches across the horizon. Tiny figures, some tall and thin, some rounded babushkas wrapped in many layers, picked a path across the snow in the distance. A few scattered hamlets zipped by and the trees were stripped to their winter bleakness.

Memories take longer to fade here: in the station barbershop at the Black Sea port of Batumi, Georgia, I saw a three-foot high picture of Stalin. The country was then engulfed in civil war. Armed raids on trains, especially at night, were common. The arrival of half a dozen armed men in our carriage on the train to the capital, Tbilisi, was not reassuring.

"Don't mind us," said one portly gunman, "we're the national guard in case the train gets attacked." He placed his pistol on the carriage's tiny folding table, where it slid back and forth all night as we trundled our way through Georgia.

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Source: Micropac Ltd 97-11856. Lump sum sterling, offer to bid prices, gross income re-invested, 335 funds to survey. \*Source Standard & Poor's Fund Research 1997-1998. Based on £6,000 lump sum, 14.2% offer to bid prices, gross income re-invested, assuming our European Trust had been available as a PEP. Over the five years to 1 October 1998, the same investment would have provided an average annual growth rate of 17.9%. Past performance is not necessarily a guide to the future. The value of units and the income from them can go down as well as up and is not guaranteed. The value of the tax advantages of a PEP depends on personal circumstances. Where applicable we will recover any income tax whenever it is possible and practical to do so. Exchange rate changes may cause the value of any overseas investments to go down as well as up. The tax protection of a PEP will change in April 1999. For your protection calls may be recorded or monitored. Issued by Scottish Widows Investment Management Limited. Regulated by the Financial Services Authority and TIASFA.

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# BUSINESS

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E-mail: [IndyBusiness@Independent.co.uk](mailto:IndyBusiness@Independent.co.uk)

## BRIEFING

### Mirror Group opens talks with RIM

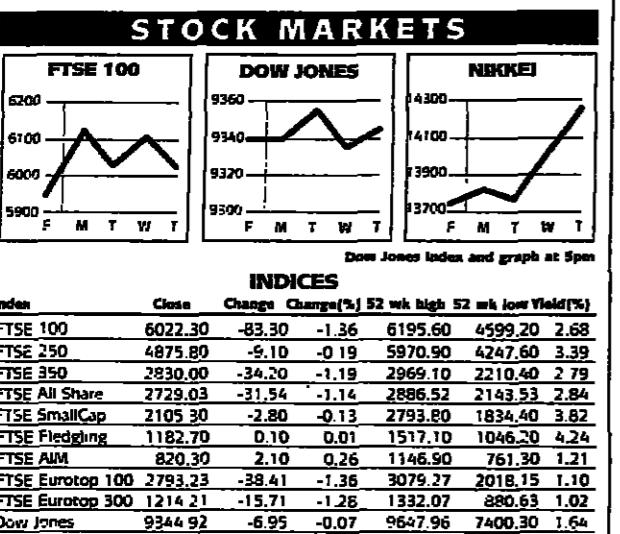
MIRROR GROUP yesterday offered to enter into negotiations with Regional Independent Media, the privately-owned regional newspaper publisher, about a possible bid for the company. But the newspaper group also informed RIM that its £913m indicative bid for Mirror was not adequate. Observers said Mirror's offer suggested it was willing to share information about the company with RIM, which is backed by venture capital group Canavore, and George Soros, the international financier. Trinity, the rival newspaper group, is currently considering whether to increase its own indicative bid for Mirror.

### BAe talks offer spurned

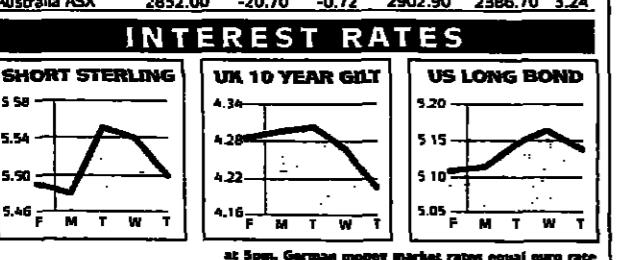
**DAIMLERCHRYSLER** Aerospace yesterday spurned an offer, backed by Prime Minister Tony Blair (left), of renewed talks with British Aerospace. "If the BAe/GEC merger goes ahead as announced a balanced horizontal European structure, like Dasa/BAe, would be made impossible," a Dasa spokesman said. Mr Blair told the German Chancellor, Gerhard Schröder, that he would support a resumption of talks between BAe and Dasa. BAe also said backed the long-term consolidation of the European defence industry, but declined to comment on specific plans to make further contact with Dasa.

### Warning on pensions reform

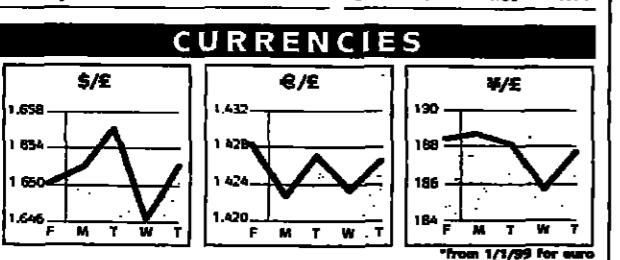
The National Association of Pension Funds warned that the Government's plans for pension reform could lead hundreds of thousands of pension savers worse off and may lead to mis-selling. The NAPF said the Green Paper on pensions, subject to consultation until the end of March, "does nothing to encourage people to join occupational schemes. You might find people picking up a stakeholder pension and ending up with worse incomes as a result".



Index	Close	Change	Change %	52 wk high	52 wk low	Yield (%)
FTSE 100	6022.30	-83.30	-1.36	6195.90	4599.20	2.68
FTSE 250	4875.80	-5.10	-0.19	5070.90	4247.60	3.39
FTSE 350	2830.00	-34.20	-1.19	2969.10	2210.40	2.79
FTSE All Share	2729.03	-31.54	-1.14	2886.52	2143.53	2.84
FTSE SmallCap	2105.30	-2.80	-0.13	2793.80	1834.40	3.82
FTSE Fledgling	1182.70	0.10	0.01	1517.10	1046.20	4.24
FTSE AIM	820.30	2.10	0.26	1146.90	761.30	1.21
FTSE Eurotop 100	1783.33	-38.41	-1.36	3076.70	1808.15	1.10
FTSE Eurotop 300	1214.21	-15.71	-1.28	1332.07	880.63	1.02
Dow Jones	9344.92	-6.95	-0.07	967.96	7400.30	1.64
Amsterdam Exch	1245.42	-217.37	-15.58	1735.95	1267.90	1.04
Hong Kong	10048.57	-266.34	-2.58	11926.16	6544.79	2.77
Dax	5156.87	13.61	0.27	6217.83	3833.71	1.57
S&P 500	1249.15	-10.29	-0.82	1278.05	923.32	1.37
Nasdaq	2379.04	-39.64	-1.64	2474.28	1357.09	0.96
Toronto 300	6112.90	1.36	0.02	7837.70	5320.90	1.51
Brazil Bovespa	7408.88	-280.25	-3.66	12339.14	4575.69	9.32
Belgium BEL20	3441.63	-49.50	-1.42	3713.21	2490.74	2.07
Amsterdam Exch	543.79	-3.39	-0.70	600.65	358.58	1.81
France CAC 40	4154.03	-35.88	-0.86	4404.94	3891.21	1.94
Milan MIB30	34601.00	-781.00	-2.21	39120.00	24175.00	1.18
Madrid Ibex 35	9920.80	-169.30	-1.68	10989.80	6862.90	1.88
Irish Overall	5306.91	56.05	1.07	5581.70	3732.57	1.41
Korea Comp	583.04	31.29	5.12	551.85	272.37	1.12
Australia ASX	2852.00	-20.70	-0.72	2902.90	2386.70	3.24



Index	3 months	Yr chg	1 year	Yr chg	10 year	Yr chg	10 year	Yr chg
MONEY MARKET RATES								
UK	5.79	-1.82	5.43	-2.19	4.20	-1.86	4.20	-1.83
US	4.97	-0.65	5.09	-0.57	4.69	0.85	5.14	0.67
Japan	0.45	-0.28	0.47	-0.23	1.88	-0.13	2.93	0.27
Germany	3.05	-0.50	2.99	-0.81	3.66	-1.47	4.60	-1.11

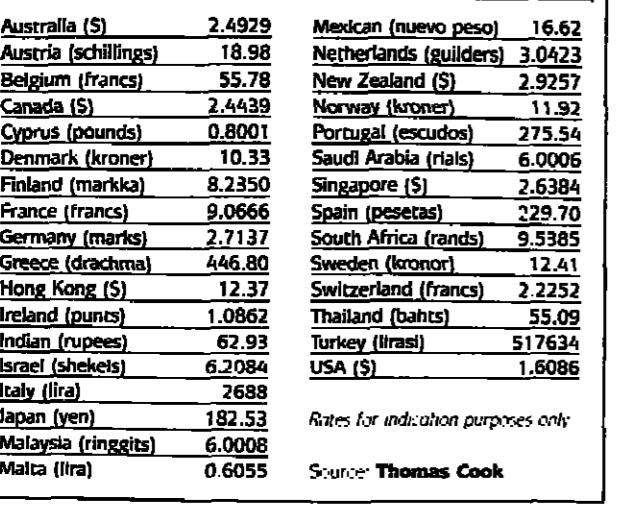


Other Indicators	Close	Chg	Yr Ago	Index	Close	Chg	Yr Ago	Next Rtg
Brent Oil (\$)	10.84	0.15	14.71	GDP	115.40	3.00	112.04	Mar
Gold (\$)	288.15	0.80	292.85	RPI	164.40	2.80	159.92	Jan
Silver (\$)	5.15	0.02	5.80	Base Rates	6.00	-7.25		
<a href="http://www.bloomberg.com/uk">www.bloomberg.com/uk</a>								

TOURIST RATES	Close	Chg	Yr Ago	Index	Close	Chg	Yr Ago	New Rtg
Australia (\$)	2.4929			Mexican (nuevo peso)	16.62			
Austria (schillings)	18.98			Netherlands (guilders)	3.0423			
Belgium (francs)	55.78			New Zealand (\$)	2.9257			
Canada (\$)	2.4439			Norway (krone)	11.92			
Cyprus (pounds)	0.8001			Portugal (escudos)	275.54			
Denmark (kroner)	10.33			Saudi Arabia (rials)	6.0006			
Finland (markka)	8.2350			Singapore (\$)	2.6384			
France (francs)	9.0666			Spain (pesetas)	229.70			
Germany (marks)	2.7137			South Africa (rand)	9.5385			
Greece (drachma)	446.80			Sweden (kronor)	12.41			
Hong Kong (\$)	12.37			Switzerland (francs)	2.2252			
Ireland (pounds)	1.0862			Thailand (bahts)	55.09			
Indian (rupees)	62.93			Turkey (lira)	517634			
Israel (shekels)	6.2084			USA (\$)	1.6086			
Italy (lira)	2688							
Japan (yen)	182.53							
Malaysia (ringgit)	6.0008							
Malta (lira)	0.6055							

Rates for indication purposes only

Source: Thomas Cook



# Seven chief executives, still no strategy

ALONGSIDE THE chauffeur-driven car and share options, the chief executive's job at Laura Ashley plainly comes with a personal ejector seat. Certainly it seems that way after yesterday's belter of an announcement that the latest incumbent has propelled herself into the stratosphere after just five months in the job. After her marathon slog with the purveyor of flowery clothes and wallpaper, Victoria Egan will land back in the Philippines, from whence she apparently came.

One of the most remarkable things about yesterday's announcement is that it made people realise how little was known about her. Though her name suggests a Sloane Ranger, she is actually a Filipino who married a British businessman. She never gave interviews and was rarely photographed. Her profile has not so much been low as subterranean.

Still, she is no more, and that makes it seven chief executives at good old Laura in the last eight years. Privately aside, the latest convulsion at this corporate disaster story is very bad news for shareholders indeed - yet another chief executive, more management changes.



## OUTLOOK

The strategy remains unchanged, the company insists, but the disruption must be damaging. Morale among the staff is at rock bottom. Why should they hang around when no chief executive has yet done so?

In any case, it is hard to know what the strategy is. A key problem for this group is that it has yet to decide what it wants to be. Laura Ashley is getting out of manufacturing, but it is still trying to sell a single retail concept of ladieswear, childrenswear and home furnishings all under one roof. Many of its outlets are not much bigger than newsagents and they are flung far and wide, stretching lines of com-

munication and making economies of scale virtually impossible.

Only half-jokingly is it suggested that the company close its remaining stores, change the name to Lashley.com and turn itself into an Internet retailer. Alternatively, shareholders could just pray you never know with the TV evangelist "Pat" Robertson joining the board, it might actually work.

## Green/Sears

IT IS HARD to know who is more to blame for the appalling undervaluation that Sears has been sold for - the management, whose failure over the years both to manage the business and realise its value has been almost total, or the stock market, which has consistently refused to put a realistic break-up value on the group. Whatever the answer, there is little doubt that Philip Green and his financial backers, the Barclay brothers, have got one of the steals of the decade.

Just consider the following back-of-the-envelope calculation. The Creation credit card business is in the process of being sold for £141m, which is quite a lot more than the

stock market thought it was worth. All the same, the deal has been done and is presumably going through.

A year ago, Sears agreed to sell its Freemans mail order company to Littlewoods for £490m, only to be blocked by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. Freemans is worth more to Littlewoods than to anyone else, and in any case it has since slipped into loss. But even so there remain two potential buyers keen to deal. So let's say Freemans can be sold for £200m. The Sears property portfolio is meanwhile conservatively valued at £150m.

All this virtually covers the costs of Philip Green's bid, leaving a not inconsiderable sum to be bargained over. It would allow a further £150m of shareholder value to pass into his hands is a terrible indictment of Sir Bob Reid and the rest of the Sears board.

So why hasn't this value recognisised by the stock market? One possible answer is that the market is an imperfect judge of value. But there is a more damning issue. Investors came so much to loathe and despise this company, and its management that they refused to afford it a proper value. Belatedly, but with about as much resolve as a sleeping child, Sears has made a start on its own break-up.

Too little, too late. Sears has been Philip Green's meal ticket for far too long now. First Olympus Sports and then Shoe Express were knocked out to him at what later proved to be bargain basement prices. To have allowed a further £150m of shareholder value to pass into his hands is a terrible indictment of Sir Bob Reid and the rest of the Sears board.

## Wolves/Marston

FOR DAVID THOMPSON, managing director of Wolverhampton & Dudley Breweries, this has been a hair-raising couple of weeks. When he launched his bid for Marston, Thompson & Everards last November, he was aware of the possibility that Marston would turn

round and bid for him, but he didn't think it likely. Then all of a sudden, he was faced with the possibility of losing his company, which has been in the family for generations. It would be like Rocco losing Forte, only on a smaller scale.

By last night, however, he would have been sleeping a little bit easier. The battle is far from over, but the stock market was strongly indicating that Wolves would win after raising its bid to £228m. The new Wolves bid values each Marston share at 304.5p on last night's closing prices, or significantly more than the market price of 286.5p. By contrast, the Marston bid for Wolves is valued at 573p a share, a whopping great premium to the Wolves market price of 429p. There is no doubt which bid the market finds more credible.

The market is not always right about these things, but even so, the cards now look to be heavily stacked against the makers of Pedigree bitter. Marston cannot realistically raise its own offer without undermining its own share price, which in turn may make its own shareholders more prone to accept the Wolves bid.

Obviously, if you are a shareholder in only one of these companies, the choice is an easy one - you either sell in the market or accept the bid. This is because, the combined value of the group can only be a certain defined amount. The bidder must set his offer at a premium to succeed, so the bidder always ends up with a disproportionately large share of the cake.

For this reason, it makes no sense for Marston shareholders to reject the bid and accept their board's defence, since inevitably they would end up overpaying for Wolves. The same arguments apply the other way round.

But as things were not already confusing enough, the holders of 55 per cent of Marston's own 28 per cent of Wolves and vice versa. For these overlapping shareholders, the calculation has to be which bid in aggregate offers them more value.

This is where it begins to get really complicated, since it involves factoring in the amount of debt in each bid, as well as evaluating the claimed value creation of each offer. But initial calculations in the City seem to be coming down in favour of Wolves.

## Sandler to step down as Lloyd's chief

BY JOHN WILLCOCK

RON SANDLER is leaving Lloyd's of London after four turbulent years as chief executive, saying "the time is right for a new boss". His successor is a Lloyd's insider, Nick Prettejohn, who has been carefully groomed for the job since joining the troubled insurance market at the same time as Mr Sandler.

Mr Sandler, a Zimbabwean former head of Exco, the money broker, is coy about what he will do next. "I intend to hand over the reins to Nick in the summer. Then I intend to run a business rather than a market, although I have nothing lined up yet."

Mr Sandler, 46, has worked alongside Sir David Rowland, former chairman of Lloyd's, and the present chairman Max Taylor, to haul the market back from the brink of collapse. He helped create the run-off vehicle Equitas to pay off Lloyd's pre-1983 liabilities.

Mr Prettejohn, 38, a former President of the Oxford Union Society, has been a key member of the reconstruction and renewal team which has supervised the transition from a market dominated by individual names to corporate capital.

Mr Prettejohn's career has spanned Bain, the consultants, Apax Partners and NFC. He was described by one colleague as "a spade-work man, working behind the scenes on the detail of the rescue plan."

When asked how close Lloyd's was to collapse when he joined in 1995, Mr Sandler said: "It was right on the brink of the precipice. If the reconstruction and redevelopment plan hadn't worked it would definitely have collapsed. But that's all ancient history now."

Mr Sandler dismissed groups of discontented Lloyd's Names such as The United Names Organisation as a "small and not significant number of people."

He did acknowledge that other Names were worried by the rapid changeover to corporate capital, but added that "change is often threatening to vested interests."

Mr Prettejohn was non-committal on his priorities for Lloyd's yesterday, saying the first job was to "work through the transition. We will continue our programme of reform and change."

**IN BRIEF**  
**News Analysis: 'It is quite some achievement. Even football managers last longer'**

## Egan to leave Laura Ashley

BY NIGEL COPE  
Associate City Editor

LAURA ASHLEY, the fashion and home furnishings retailer, stunned the City yet again yesterday when it announced a poor Christmas trading statement and the departure of its latest chief executive after just five months in the job.

Victoria Egan, who was only appointed to the position in August, is leaving for "personal reasons" and is expected to return to her native Philippines. Mrs Egan is being replaced by Kwan Cheong Ng, a director of MUI, the Malaysian retailer which rescued Laura Ashley with a £40m cash injection last year.

He becomes the fifth chief executive at the group in the last five years and the seventh since 1990. As one analyst put it: "It is quite some achievement. Even football managers last longer than this."

Commenting on the sudden departure of the 55-year-old Ms Egan, Laura Ashley's commercial director Stephen Cox said: "We would have liked her to stay. She is a very nice lady." Ms Egan, who is married to a British businessman based in the Philippines, will remain at the company for a few weeks to oversee the handover.

Her contract stipulated that she would receive an annual salary of £200,000 but she will receive no compensation.

The news of her departure pushed the company's shares down 0.5p to 12p, their lowest level. The retailer, best known for its trademark floral dresses, is now valued at just £25m. Though the business is now debt-free and has the support of its bankers, City experts are still questioning its future.

"There is no form of management structure there and no consistency. I wouldn't want to hold the shares even at these levels," one said.

Analysts are nervous that the constant upheaval of new management is destabilising the business which has been rocked by a series of departures. They are concerned that the company does not seem to have decided whether to concentrate mainly on home furnishings or continue with clothing as well.

Laura Ashley claims that the appointment of Mr Ng as chief executive will be a smooth succession and will not mark a shift in strategy as he was already part of the board that sanctioned a three-part action.



Victoria Egan, who has resigned as chief executive of Laura Ashley after five months in charge Jim Winstanley



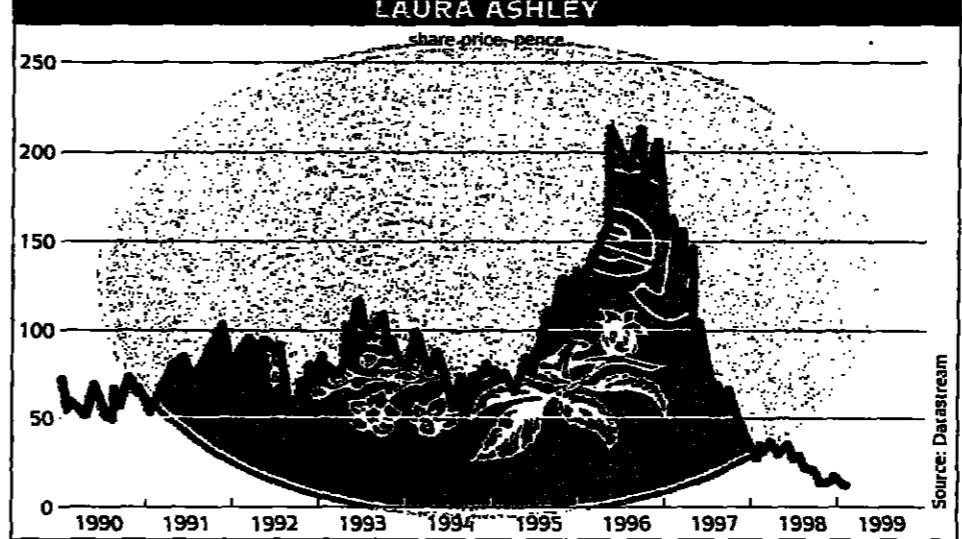
John Thornton: Sat on the board since 1995



Ann Iverson: Ousted after expansion plan failure



Sir Bernard Ashley: No longer on the board



Source: Datastream

## God's gift to fading fashion house

LAURA ASHLEY has had a few high-profile directors in its time but few have been as colourful as "Pat" Robertson, the American televangelist who was announced as a non-executive of the struggling retailer yesterday.

Marion Gordon Robertson, nicknamed "Pat", is a TV evangelist, philanthropist and businessman who unsuccessfully challenged George Bush for the Republican Party's presidential nomination in 1988.

This said that "one of the largest moral crises we face in America is the proliferation of tolerance for immoral sexual behaviour. This is evident everywhere we turn - pre-marital sex, marital infidelity, homosexuality..."

Laura Ashley directors said Mr Robertson did not have any direct retail experience but that this would not necessarily be a problem.

"He is an incredibly successful businessman both in the US and internationally," the company said. "He has terrific business acumen and will be a great asset."

Analysts say Laura Ashley should still have a future, though its recovery will be a lengthy process. "It is a shame because the brand still has a value but in what form? It is going to be a long hard slog."

John Thornton, managing director of Goldman Sachs International, who has been on the board since 1995, is the chairman of Laura Ashley MUI. Now accounts for 40 per cent of Laura Ashley shares while Jusco, a Japanese group controls a further 13 per cent. Sir Bernard Ashley, Laura Ashley's widower, has seen his stake diluted to just under 10 per cent and he no longer has a seat on the board.

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should still have a future, though its recovery will be a lengthy process. "It is a shame because the brand still has a value but in what form? It is going to be a long hard, slog."

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Fund	Setl Day	+/- YTD	Val	Int.	Cust %
ABN Amro Pensions Fund	12/12	-0.01	1,000		
Amidex Fund	25/12	-28.29	2,711	3.21	5.00
Equity Income	16/12/98	-35.40	4,074	4.77	5.00
Growth Fund	14/12/98	-35.39	4,074	4.04	5.00
UK Smaller Cos	12/12/98	-34.40	4,061	0.23	5.00
Charity Fund	12/12/98	-30.46	955	0.11	0.00
Barclays Fund Managers Ltd					
American Fund	20/12/98	-419.89	10,150	1.50	5.00
Portfolios Inc	20/12/98	-206.50	1,481	0.11	5.00
Multi-Select	16/12/98	-178.70	1,400	0.00	5.00
Global Fund	20/12/98	-177.40	1,390	0.00	5.00
Corporate Fund	16/12/98	-176.20	1,382	0.00	5.00
Equity Income Fund	16/12/98	-175.90	1,382	0.00	5.00
Income Fund	16/12/98	-175.60	1,382	0.00	5.00
UK Smaller Cos	12/12/98	-175.30	1,384	0.01	5.00
Charity Fund	12/12/98	-175.00	955	0.11	0.00
Barclays Fund Managers Ltd					
American Fund	16/12/98	-194.50	1,000	0.00	5.00
Portfolios Inc	16/12/98	-194.20	1,000	0.00	5.00
Multi-Select	12/12/98	-193.90	1,000	0.00	5.00
Global Fund	16/12/98	-193.60	1,000	0.00	5.00
Equity Income Fund	16/12/98	-193.30	1,000	0.00	5.00
Income Fund	16/12/98	-193.00	1,000	0.00	5.00
UK Smaller Cos	12/12/98	-192.70	1,000	0.00	5.00
Charity Fund	12/12/98	-192.40	955	0.11	0.00
Barclays Fund Managers Ltd					
Tele 0171 578 2787					
Global Strategy	27/12/98	-206.50	1,481	0.11	5.00
American Fund	12/12/98	-195.20	1,479	0.00	5.00
Equity Income	16/12/98	-194.90	1,478	0.00	5.00
Corporate Fund	16/12/98	-194.60	1,478	0.00	5.00
Income Fund	16/12/98	-194.30	1,478	0.00	5.00
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# Unilever takes knock from Brazilian crisis

UNILEVER IS feeling the chilling impact of the Brazilian devaluation. Shares of the Anglo-Dutch detergents and foods giant were one of the poorest performing Footsie constituents, falling 37.5p to 612.5p as some analysts felt obliged to reduce their profit forecasts.

Goldman Sachs, the American securities house, is one which has lowered its estimates following the upheaval in Brazil. Henderson Crosthwaite also turned cautious.

Besides the devaluation hit, Unilever had to contend with Wednesday's disappointing statement from Nestle. The sprawling Swiss group failed to meet its 4 per cent growth target, a shortfall which could well occur at Unilever given the similar geographical spreads of two profits.

Unilever's profits last year are expected to come in around £3bn. Before Brazil's problems materialised the stock market was shooting for about £3.2bn for the current year.

Brazil is a major contributor to the 10 per cent of operating profits the Anglo-Dutch

## MARKET REPORT



### DEREK PAIN

interest in the telecom group from 75 to 45.49 per cent.

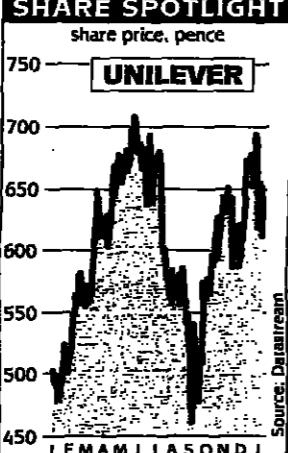
HSBC was said to have placed the shares with institutions but it had to struggle to do so. Energen dipped 22.5p to 1,712.5p and Grid dived 9.5p to 543.5p.

The HSBC concern hit Standard Chartered down 33.5p to 803.5p. Other banking shares were mostly subdued.

Vodafone was again busily traded with the price firming 4p to 1,163; ScottishPower fell 9.5p to 654.5p as Dresdner Kleinwort Benson turned cautious.

Enterprise Oil and Lusmo, talking merger, fell back although there were suggestions that Repsol may barge into the planned deal. The Spanish group has acquired a near 15 per cent stake in YPF, Argentina's largest company, and has made no secret of its desire to buy into other oil groups. Enterprise fell 5p to 242p and Lusmo 2.75p to 97.25p.

#### SHARE SPOTLIGHT



Source: Bloomberg

gained 4p to 39.5p after the US company Parametric Technology mounted an agreed 40p a share offer.

The soaring Internet spree showed signs of fading, with a sell-off in New York causing some alarm. Intelligent Environment rose 22p to 90p, and Internet Technology gained 30.5p to 172p after winning two telephone licences.

But Virtual Internet, which arrived on Tuesday following a reverse takeover, crashed 107.5p to 129p, only 11.5p above its suspension price. Voss Net lost 22p to 57.5p and Netcall 18p to 67p.

On-Line again led the way – but this time it was a retreat. The shares crashed 145p to 129p. After the market closed the company, little known at start of the year, produced a statement outlining a few developments which "are probably insufficient to explain the magnitude of the [share] rise".

Cheekily it went on: "The board feels that the rise can be explained by the expectations of investors that On-Line should reflect a valuation in line with its Internet profile

CAIRN ENERGY, which once enjoyed a share price topping 800p, was lifted from its 62p low by SG Securities which said the company was exposed to "very significant exploration upside in India and Bangladesh". The group has £20m cash and the analyst Richard Savage says that even with a \$10 oil price the company will remain cash-positive for the foreseeable future. The shares, in busy trading, moved ahead 9.5p to 71.5p.

and with the valuations of US internet companies."

Two directors have sold more shares, with one of them, Clement Chambers, given options at the prices the shares were sold. He now has 14 per cent against around 35 per cent before the price started its meteoric rise from 16p at the start of last week to 273.5p, where the company was worth £20m.

Trading statements lowered the toy retailer Hamleys 10p to 133.5p, but lifted Enterprise Inns 15.5p to 379p and retailer Arcadia 30.5p to 157.5p. All days continued to suffer from its disastrous results, down a further 25p to 67.5p against 62.5p last year.

The drop was entirely down to Lookers' Agricultural machinery division, which suffered a £500,000 dip in profits as the BSE scandal continued to dent demand from farmers.

However, pressure on car prices also contributed to the slide, by limiting growth in the motors division.

Although new and used car volumes grew by 7.5 per cent and 10 per cent respectively, this growth was undermined by lower prices.

"In common with many

other groups in the sector, trading conditions in recent months have been extremely testing," said Craig McKinney, the company's chairman.

Under chief executive Fred Maguire, Lookers has been investing heavily in its distribution network. In the past two years, the company has relocated or overhauled 80 per cent of its mainland dealerships.

This is expected to stand the company in good stead if it attempts to join forces with rival distributors, because Lookers is now more likely to receive the support of manufacturers. However, the company insists that it is not maintaining its dividend.

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## SPORT

Tennis: 'If the Grand Slam record is important to Pete, then he has to win one this year' says the great Australian

# Emerson's warning for Sampras



IAN  
STAFFORD

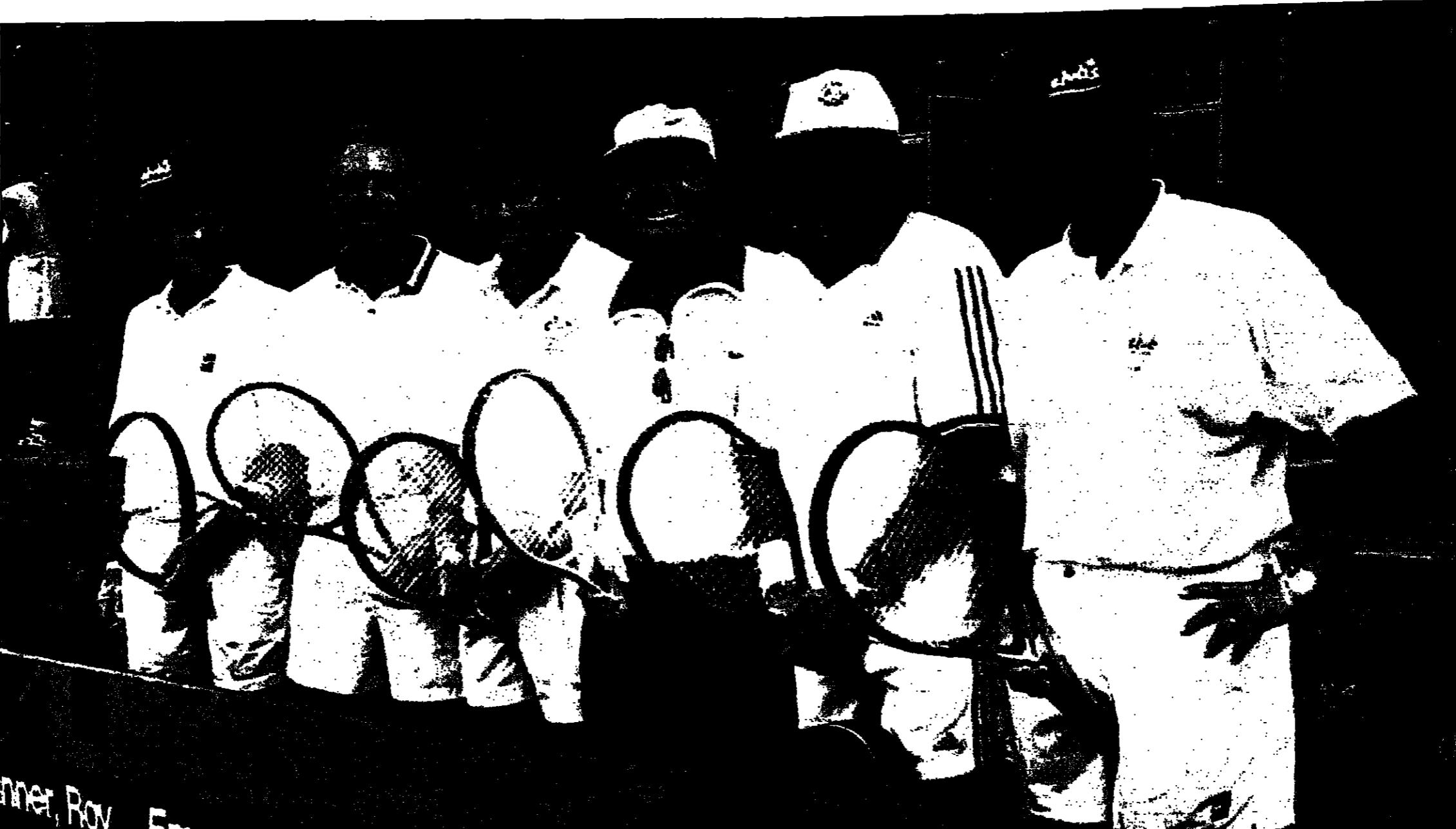
THAT PETE SAMPRAS is missing from the Australian Open provided every other top player with an improved chance of securing one of the world's major tournaments. What may not have been considered quite as much is that the American's absence gives Sampras one fewer opportunity to equal the record of Grand Slam singles titles.

This, still, is held by Roy Emerson, the big, burly Australian with the ferocious backhand and fiercely competitive spirit. He believes that time is running out for the 27-year-old Sampras. "If the Grand Slam record is important to Pete, then he has to win one this year," he believes. "It's getting harder and harder for him and, although you have to still fancy him at Wimbledon, he can't afford to lose out at too many more Grand Slam tournaments."

In a career that spanned the circuit for 14 years, beginning in 1954, Emerson won 12 Grand Slam singles titles. He was no mean doubles player either, picking up a further 16 titles in Grand Slam tournaments. He cannot see his collective record ever being broken. "I think my 28 titles will be there for kingdom come," he says. "But, if my singles record is there to be matched, Pete (who is one behind) has got to get a move on."

Emerson, now 62, is keeping a close watch on proceedings from one of his three homes in Newport Beach, California, Gstaad, in Switzerland, and Aventura, Florida, where he is the director of tennis at Williams Island. He still plays and, indeed, featured in the recent St Lucia Tennis Legends Tournament at the Odyssey International. "I'd like to hold the singles record forever," he is more than happy to admit. "But if I am to share it, or lose it to someone, I'd be happy if it was Sampras."

Why? "I just think he's been a terrific ambassador for the sport," Emerson explains. "He conducts himself in the right way both on and off the court, and I like his graceful style. At least compared to others today."



Roy Emerson (right), the winner of 12 Grand Slam singles titles, lines up with fellow tennis veterans (from left) Ross Case, Roger Taylor, Roscoe Tanner, Tom Okker and Ilie Nastase in St Lucia while (below) the player in his pomp. "There's no question in my mind that the likes of myself, Laver, Sedgeman, Hoad, Rosewall, would, if we played the stars today, have lived with them". David Pascall

This is a veiled criticism, of course, of the showmanship of strength on the courts today, especially from the men. "I think the new rackets have definitely improved the women's game, but they have also taken away far too much finesse from the men's game," he says. "It has become too repetitive, and the men just don't have to work so hard for their points anymore. Tennis is not the exciting spectacle it once was."

Like perhaps, in Emerson's day? Most would argue that the great players of the 1950s, 60s and even the 70s would struggle to keep up with today's stars. They would simply be overpowered by the strength and speed of the champions of the 1990s. The six times former winner of the Australian Open, and twice winner of Wimbledon, the US and French Opens, poses more questions.

"When I was at my height three of the four Grand Slam tournaments were played on grass. Only the French Open was on clay. It took me a long time to get to grips with a clay court. I was pitiful to begin with. In the end, I probably preferred it to grass. These days the players have to adapt to grass, clay, rubber and hardcourt. You probably have to be more of a complete player."

"I will also concede that the competition is stiffer. In my day the top 20 was dominated by Australian and American players. Now the Europeans and South Americans are also strong."

What will say is that the players today are asked to perform on all kinds of surfaces that beat up your body more. I wouldn't have enjoyed that. The variety of surfaces poses more questions.

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"I tried to emulate Frank Sedgeman in the way I played," he admits. "But for me, Laver was the best. He possessed more skills and strokes than the others, but what really made him stand out was his mental strength. Laver was never beaten until the final point had been lost. He became even tougher once he turned professional. I would have loved to have seen him take on the likes of Sampras. Then again, I'd like to be playing the game today as well. Maybe Laver and I could have added a little finesse."

"Others are catching him up, or have already caught him. A lot of the boys think they can beat him now. Whenever they play Pete they feel they have nothing to lose and raise their game. Losing to Pete is not a disaster, so everyone plays well against him. It's a terrific effort to be the world No 1 for six consecutive years, but the bottom line is that he doesn't intimidate players anymore."

Emerson played in a time recognised to be one of the great periods of world tennis. Of

all the great players he faced and beat, he still, not surprisingly, rates his countryman, Rod Laver, to be the best.

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Emerson laughs. "My forehand these days is pathetic," he says. "But I'll tell you something. I still never miss a backhand."



## Kournikova's faulting farce



THE WOMEN'S Tennis Association does not keep records for double faults, but Anna Kournikova must be pretty close to setting one. The 18-year-old Russian, who normally makes the news because of her good looks and powerful all-court game, hit 31 double faults in her 1-6, 6-4, 10-8 victory over Miho Saito of Japan yesterday.

Added to the 26 she served in her first-round match against the American Jill Craybas, it makes a staggering 57 for the Australian Open in Melbourne, in addition to the 34 she served in two matches in Sydney last week - 91 for the year so far in just four matches.

It was one of most feeble and unintentionally comical matches of all time, and the packed crowd groaned and hooted, laughed and whistled through every excruciating moment. That Kournikova won illustrated the way both players performed. Between them they made 149 unforced errors with 21 breaks of service.

After dropping the first set against the 80th-ranked Japanese, Kournikova rallied to take the second and open up a 5-0 lead in the third. She then had two match points but blew them both - on double faults.

The problem started in October at successive tournaments in Flushing and Zurich when she started averaging 15 double faults per match. Then,

she looked close to tears, but in Melbourne she seems relaxed about her serving displays.

"It has been happening for a while, so I am kind of used to it," she said with a smile. "I'm really frustrated with it, just like everybody who is watching. In practice I feel fine, I serve normal, and there's no sign of double faults - it's just when I come to the line, when I play, there's something happening, so I'm just going to have to get over it and try to fight through."

While Kournikova scraped through, the No 4 seed, Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario, crashed out 6-2, 6-2 to Barbara Schett, the Austrian prospect who came within two points of beating Martina Hingis in Sydney last week. Schett humbled the reigning French Open champion, and suggested afterwards that the Spaniard was getting left behind by today's generation of power players. "I don't think you'll see too many new players who play like her," she said.

Steffi Graf also lost the opening set before coming through against Barbara Schwartz. It was relatively comfortable again for Monica Seles and the defending champion, Martina Hingis. Seles stretched her unbeaten record in the championship to 30 matches by beating Alcira Dechaume-Balleret while Hingis, chasing her third successive title, defeated qualifier Elena Dementieva.

## Goldstein's dramatic introduction

A little-known American with some famous friends has overcome Greg Rusedski. By Derrick Whyte

"SO WHO'S Paul Goldstein?" he was asked at a press conference. "Paul Goldstein's from Rockville, Maryland. He has two of the most supportive parents in the world, two wonderful brothers and he's feeling pretty good right now," he shot back.

Goldstein has hung out with Tiger Woods, counts Chelsea Clinton as a friend, quotes John McEnroe and beat Greg Rusedski at the Australian Open yesterday.

"He's been playing for five or six months on the professional tour and yes, he's feeling pretty good right now," Goldstein said of himself after scheming, running and driving his way to a 6-4, 6-7, 6-2 victory over the Briton in their second-round match.

At Stanford, McEnroe's alma mater, he helped its tennis team to four consecutive NCAA titles. When Goldstein was asked to explain how some decent results in Challengers and an unspectacular college career can lead a man to beat

a top-10 player in only his 10th tour-level match, he merely said: "Your guess is as good as mine."

What Goldstein achieved by staying in school instead of taking his light frame on to the tour as a teen was to prepare himself away from the spotlight.

"My body still has a lot of maturing to do," Goldstein said. "And at the point of 18, 19, 20 I just don't think I was ready for the rigours of the tour, either physically or mentally."

While Rusedski kept pounding serves of around 128 mph, Goldstein replied with modest efforts peaking with a best of 109 mph. So the American had

to use his Stanford brain instead of his less-than-powerful arms. "I kind of went in with the approach that a made return was a good return," he said. "He's got a world-class serve, one of the top two or three in the game. I just relied on my counter punching and scrambling on the return games."

Without power, Goldstein needed accuracy on his serve. He spent a lot of time tumbling around as Rusedski attacked him, but seemed to enjoy it.

"That Rebound Ace [the playing surface] has a nice little cushion and I was thinking I might have some bloody marks, but after the first one it didn't hurt too bad."

Goldstein said he has a long way to go before he has the

earning power of a Woods or the game of a McEnroe. It's a good start to a career but it's also something more. "Tennis is a fun game," he told reporters. "You guys all should play."

Added to the 26 she served in her first-round match against the American Jill Craybas, it makes a staggering 57 for the Australian Open in Melbourne, in addition to the 34 she served in two matches in Sydney last week - 91 for the year so far in just four matches.

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## Agassi's progress hints at former glories

By DERRICK WHYTE

ANDRE AGASSI showed he is ready to make the most of a potentially trouble-free route to the Australian Open semi-finals when he beat the Czech Slava Dosedel 7-6, 6-2, 6-0 yesterday. The American fifth seed and 1995 champion produced glimpses of his former brilliance as he grew in confidence after a slightly subdued start to reach the third round.

"It took me a while to settle into the match and then it felt quite good," Agassi said.

Perhaps most significant was the way he was able to combat the Czech's serve in a

old form. This time, Agassi has been installed by local bookmakers as equal favourite with Mark Philippoussis.

The loss of seeds has worked in his favour; with Agassi the sole seed left in his quarter of the draw after the early exits of Spaniards Carlos Moya and Albert Costa and Frenchman Cedric Pioline.

The withdrawal of top seed Marcelo Rios through injury and the absence of Agassi's old rival Pete Sampras through fatigue means Agassi's only real hurdle before the final is likely to be either a match against

Yevgeny Kafelnikov or Todd Martin.

"I certainly don't mind that Pete's not here," Agassi said. "I'm not a bright guy but I'm not stupid."

Petr Korda, unseeded after falling to 20th in the world rankings and the man who failed a drugs test at Wimbledon last July, is still proving unpopular with the crowds. Korda, let off a one-year ban and penalised only the prize and ranking points he earned, was on the receiving end of comments from the crowd during his straight-sets victory

over the Spaniard Julian Alonso, who, unlike compatriot Galo Blanco in the first round, did at least shake hands afterwards.

"Some of the fans were using unproper (sic) words - some thing insulting," Korda said. He refused to say exactly what was said, but there was at least one audible shout of "cheat" during the match. "I don't want to talk about it. It didn't bother me."

The fifteenth seed, Todd Martin, came perilously close to tumbling out at the first hurdle yesterday, scraping through against the 61st ranked Brazil-

ian Fernando Meligeni, 3-6, 4-6, 6-3, 6-4, 6-1. The American early on showed little of the devastating form which won him the Sydney International last weekend and lifted him to No 13 in the world.

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## Rodman his retire

DENNIS RODMAN has changed his mind and decided to retire after all! The NBA's most colourful player posted a message on his Internet site yesterday announcing his decision and his agent, Dwight Manley, confirmed that the player wants to return to professional basketball.

"I've been reviewing my options," Rodman wrote, "and those options still include playing in the NBA this season."

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Rodman had announced his retirement on Tuesday as rumours spread that he was about to be traded to the New York Knicks. Manley, who has said he would no longer represent Rodman, said he had spoken with the player yesterday.

"It's true," Manley said of Rodman's change of heart.

If the Bulls were to re-sign Rodman, they had to do so by signing a sign-and-trade deal for him.

"Levi second Bestie Ale

# England to carry on in sober fashion

THIS IS some one-day series. It began with a controversy which refuses to go away about a bowler having a crooked arm. Now there is a scandal which will probably have similar mileage about a batsman being legless.

The first involves the Sri Lankan bowler, Muttiah Muralitharan, who continues to be the subject of blatant innuendos about his bowling action. It is still being widely suggested that he may be called for throwing by one or other of the umpires in his side's match against England in Adelaide tomorrow.

But at least some of the heat has been taken out of the Murali debate by the dropping from the Australian team of the batsman, Ricky Ponting, after he was struck in the eye while on an early-morning drinking session. Ponting, who is sporting a bonny shin after the incident in a Sydney bar, made every Australian front page after the incident became public and is waiting to hear if he is to receive further punishment from the Australian Cricket Board.

He has admitted that he has a tendency to drink too much occasionally and fierce arguments are now being mounted about whether players should be banned from imbibing alcohol before and after games. This might be a tad embarrassing since the tournament sponsors, Carlton & United, are brewers. It is not known if Ponting had been sampling their wares on the night in question.

Somewhat clear England, and everywhere you go this squad's politeness and good manners are mentioned, meanwhile, keep on winning matches. If they defeat Sri Lanka tomorrow they will have won five from six. The only way they could then fail to qualify for the finals is if they lose the rest, while Australia and Sri Lanka also continue to win five matches.

**CRICKET**  
BY STEPHEN BRENKLEY  
in Adelaide

(possible but not likely) and lose out on net run-rate.

Their captain, Alec Stewart, is the archetypal pro and was taking nothing for granted while counting no chickens. "I

would say we have broken the back of it, playing our first five games in 10 days. We have now got down to two or three days between each game."

England have arrived at a strategy which gives them their best chance of winning matches in Australia. It seems to have been achieved partly by design, partly by accident - Graeme Hick asked to bat at No 3 while the selectors were just about to request him to do it - and mainly embraces the revolutionary concept in one-day games of playing orthodox cricket.

True, the openers will try to take advantage of the fielding restrictions which apply in the first 15 overs, but they are conscious, too, of the importance of not losing wickets then, a trait which has had a debilitating effect on Sri Lanka. England are attempting to stack up singles and twos in the middle part of the innings and then have enough wickets left for a big bash at the end.

It will not work perfectly every time but it is a sensible policy. They may decide that something different should apply on the spring pitches of England in the World Cup but the present balance between bat and ball seems somehow more appropriate.

Sri Lanka's win over Australia in Hobart has opened up the group slightly but England have still gone from the least fancied side to favourites. Freshness may be their greatest enemy. Neither Stewart nor Darren Gough

would lightly miss an England game but they have been in Australia since October and whatever the sparkling images of fitness and enthusiasm they both convey they must be feeling tired. Resting Gough at least for a match or two before the finals must be an option.

First, they have to qualify. In addition to which the tour manager, David Graveney, offered wise words of caution. "These are all one-day internationals after all and there is a case for always picking what you think is the best side for every match. And there is the importance of not letting a winning sequence slip."

England have fallen into the habit of not naming their side until shortly before the match in this tournament, making much of the point that they are picking from 16. But the likelihood for the first match here is that Neil Fairbrother will return if his tight hamstring has mended and that Dean Headley could return.

John Crawley, who batted neatly to help win the last match against Sri Lanka, and Vince Wells, who, sadly, barely managed to get into the game, will probably stand down. Sri Lanka will have received an immense, not to say much-needed boost to their confidence after their three-wicket victory over Australia.

They should be more like their old selves despite the pressure on Murali and the probable continued absence of Aravinda de Silva. These are contentious times and it is at least welcome that the triangular tournament involves three teams again.

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Sanath Jayasuriya celebrates dismissing Australia's Mark Waugh during Sri Lanka's first triangular win in Hobart yesterday

Reuters

## Australia beaten as Sri Lanka end run

**SRI LANKA**, the World Cup champions, yesterday broke a run of eight successive one-day defeats when they beat Australia by three wickets in Hobart for their first win of the Carlton & United Series.

Marvan Atapattu struck 82 and Arjuna Ranatunga, the captain, shrugged off injury to hit an unbeaten 45 as Sri Lanka reached their target of 211 with three deliveries of their 50 wickets to spare. A late slump in which five wickets tumbled for 35 threatened Sri Lanka's victory ambitions, but they were not to be denied after Australia made 210 for 9 in their 50 overs.

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**Australia 210-9**  
**Sri Lanka 211-7**  
**Sri Lanka win by three wks**

Ranatunga, limping noticeably after straining a calf muscle while fielding on a soft Bellerive Oval, needed a runner but his 61-ball innings ensured his side's success after they slipped from 163 for 3 to 198 for 7. The leg-spinner Shane Warne, who finished with 3 for 45 off his 10 overs, and the pace bowler Glenn McGrath, with 1 for 33 of his 10, did the damage.

Sri Lanka had been put on course for victory by a 116-run second-wicket partnership off

71 balls between Atapattu and the opener Roshen Kaluwitharana, who struck 54. Atapattu's 82 came off 121 balls in 168 minutes and included six fours. England lead the tri-nation series on eight points, with Australia on four and Sri Lanka, who have a match in hand, on two. The top two qualify for the best-of-three finals.

Australia went into the match without Ricky Ponting, who was dropped after being involved in a fight outside a Sydney nightclub. Adding to their problems were injuries to Steve Waugh and Michael Bevan. Waugh was unable to field

after suffering a recurrence of the hamstring injury that kept him out of the early matches of the series. He suffered a sharp swing as he was running between wickets during his innings of 20. Team officials said it was in the same area of his left leg as his old injury and he was almost certain to miss Australia's next two matches of the series, against Sri Lanka on Sunday and England on Tuesday.

Bevan suffered a minor strain to his right groin, saying he felt it while batting and then aggravated it in the field. He was replaced by the Tasmanian bowler, Damien Wright.

Ranatunga was thrilled with the win. "I thought we batted really well, then panicked a little in the middle. I was a bit worried towards the end," he said. Earlier Mark Waugh and Darren Lehmann posted half-centuries in Australia's modest total. Waugh top-scored with 85 and Lehmann made 51 in the most significant partnership of the innings - 93 for the third wicket. Both survived chances as the Sri Lankans missed numerous catches, but once they were parted Australia's batting struggled.

Scoreboard, Table, Digest, page 27

## Hindu nationalists lift tour threat

**WASIM AKRAM**, the Pakistan captain, yesterday expressed relief that right-wing Hindu nationalists had lifted a threat to disrupt his country's tour of India. "It's great for us to be in India," Shahryar Khan, the team manager, told a press conference soon after Pakistan arrived in New Delhi amid tight security. "Never in the history of cricket has a team arrived in such a daunting atmosphere. I hope they get the welcome they deserve across India," Shahryar said.

Wasim was speaking after India announced that the Hindu Shiv Sena party had withdrawn a threat to disrupt the tour by Pakistan. The threat had caused serious concerns on

BY BRIAN MCKENNA  
in New Delhi

both sides of the border. "It's great for us to be in India," Shahryar Khan, the team manager, told a press conference soon after Pakistan arrived in New Delhi amid tight security. "Never in the history of cricket has a team arrived in such a daunting atmosphere. I hope they get the welcome they deserve across India," Shahryar said.

Pakistan travel to Gwalior today for the three-day tour opener against India A, start-

ing tomorrow. The first Test starts in Madras on 28 January and the second will be played at New Delhi from 4 February.

India, meanwhile, have unveiled a new-look squad to face Pakistan in the first Test. The opening bat Navjot Sidhu and the vice-captain Ajay Jadeja have been dropped from the team that lost the recent Test series in New Zealand as two new caps join the 14-man squad.

The all-rounder Laxmi Ratan Shukla and the opening batsman Sadagoppan Ramesh are the fresh faces contesting a place in Mohammad Az-

haruddin's team to kick off the first Test series against a Pakistan side in India for 12 years.

"We thought youngsters should get a chance," Ajit Wadekar, the selection committee chairman, said. "We found Jadeja wanting against swing bowling and youngsters have shown good performances in domestic cricket."

The fast bowler Ajit Agarkar, nursing an injury, has also been left out for the first Test.

Team officials said it was in the same area of his left leg as his old injury and he was almost certain to miss Australia's next two matches of the series, against Sri Lanka on Sunday and England on Tuesday.

Bevan suffered a minor strain to his right groin, saying he felt it while batting and then aggravated it in the field. He was replaced by the Tasmanian bowler, Damien Wright.

## Rodman calls off his retirement

**DENNIS RODMAN** has changed his mind and decided not to retire after all. The NBA's most colourful player posted a message on his Internet site yesterday announcing his decision and his agent, Dwight Manley, confirmed that the player wants to return to professional basketball.

"I've been reviewing my options," Rodman wrote, "and those options still include playing in the NBA this season with a contender Chicago, New York and LA are all cities I'd like to play in. Playing overseas could be pretty cool, too."

Rodman had announced his retirement on Tuesday as rumours spread that he was about to be traded to the New York Knicks. Manley, who had represented Rodman, said he had spoken with the player yesterday. "It's true," Manley said of Rodman's change of heart.

If the Bulls were to resuscitate a sign-and-trade deal for Rodman, they had to do so by

**BASKETBALL**  
yesterday's deadline. Chicago were expected to renounce their rights to Michael Jordan and complete a sign-and-trade deal for Scottie Pippen (to Houston), Luc Longley (to Phoenix) and Steve Kerr (to San Antonio). Chicago may be ready to make a deal with the Knicks, trading Rodman for Buck Williams.

"I've had some long discussions with the people I know, the ones whose opinions matter most to me, and I've decided not to retire after all," Rodman announced on his website. "I know yesterday I said I was history and with the NBA lock-out and everything going on, I really thought I should stop playing.

He added: "I still have to come back for at least one more game so that I can get buck naked on the court."

The 37-year-old Rodman won titles with Chicago in 1996, 1997 and 1998, and with the Detroit Pistons in 1989 and 1990.

**MARK WILLIAMS**, beaten in the deciding frame when Wales were knocked out of the 1996 World Cup, made amends by keeping his country's Nations Cup challenge alive in Newcastle yesterday.

Williams, no stranger to tight finishes, having sunk a re-spotted black to edge out Stephen Hendry in this year's Benson & Hedges Masters final, held his nerve to put the seal on a 6-5 Welsh victory over Northern Ireland.

"What happened in Bangkok was on my mind, and I was shaking all over," said Williams, referring to his defeat to Thailand's James Wattana in an equally tense climax to the World Cup quarter-final.

Northern Ireland led 2-0 but trailed 3-2 when they put together a three-frame spurt which threatened to scupper any hopes of Wales appearing in Sunday's final.

Jason Prince had a 40 break in overcoming Williams before veteran Dennis Taylor brought

**SNOOKER**  
his vast experience to bear. The 1985 world champion, who celebrated his 50th birthday on Tuesday, ground out a 39-minute singles triumph over Matthew Stevens before a 52 break helped him and partner Terry Murphy win a vital doubles contest.

That pushed Northern Ireland into a 5-3 lead and onto the verge of chalking up their second success of the week, having beaten England 6-5 on Monday. But Williams then sneaked past Murphy with a last red to blue clearance which launched the Welsh revival.

It continued when Stevens shaded Prince on the blue in frame 10 and was completed when Williams retained sufficient composure to clear yellow to blue in the decider, after potting a crucial green from distance. The Welsh quartet must now beat England tomorrow to guarantee an appearance in the final.

## TOMORROW

'Let's imagine that when Eric Cantona called it a day after winning a second Double with Manchester United, he took Ryan Giggs, David Beckham, Roy Keane, Paul Scholes and Peter Schmeichel with him. Oh, and Alex Ferguson.' RICHARD WILLIAMS on the break-up of the Chicago Bulls

## DON'T BRAVE THE CHICKEN

## DON'T TRY IT WITH BASIL

## DON'T SUCCUMB TO THE TART

DON'T GO OUT FOR DINNER UNTIL YOU'VE SEEN THE INDEPENDENT

DON'T MISS IT

DINE OUT WITH A FRIEND AND PAY JUST 45P FOR THEIR MEAL

SEE SATURDAY'S INDEPENDENT FOR DETAILS

# Nicholls' Call the sound alternative

BY GREG WOOD

WHATEVER THE result of this afternoon's re-arranged Victor Chandler Chase at Ascot, it might not be wise to suggest to James Adam that it is better late than never. Adam, who both owns and trains a small string of jumpers in Berwickshire, was ready to make the long journey south last weekend not merely with his chaser Monnaie Forte, but also a 20-1 ante-post voucher about him winning. Given that the best price available last Friday was 4-1, it could have been a very valuable piece of paper.

Yet while the race was simply postponed until today, Adam's bet has been cancelled, period. The bookmakers' rules dictate that if there is the possibility of fresh entries after the overnight declarations have been made, all bets are void and a new market formed. And of course, Adam is not the only punter who is left to wonder why the rules always seem to work in the bookies' favour. The odds compilers rarely get it wrong the first time, but with two attempts, their task could hardly be simpler.

The price against each of today's eight runners is thus as close as you will get to an accurate measure of its chance, less 15 per cent or so for the bookmaker. The search for value, then, is unlikely to be fruitful, and punters may feel drawn ever more strongly towards the favourite, Get Real, particularly.

Celibate: Amateur rider Noel Fehily is good value for his 7lb claim but Celibate is not exactly a potent threat. He was trounced 11 lengths by Get Real over course and distance last time and has plenty to find with only a 3lb pull.

Hill Society: The ground is a worry; for this Irish raider who has delighted his trainer, Noel Meade, and is a classy performer on his day.

Call Equine: Tough task on his first outing for over a year.

ly as the defection of Or Royal since last Saturday will allow him to race off his true handicap mark, or at any rate, as near to it as Mick Fitzgerald's need for basic nutrition will allow.

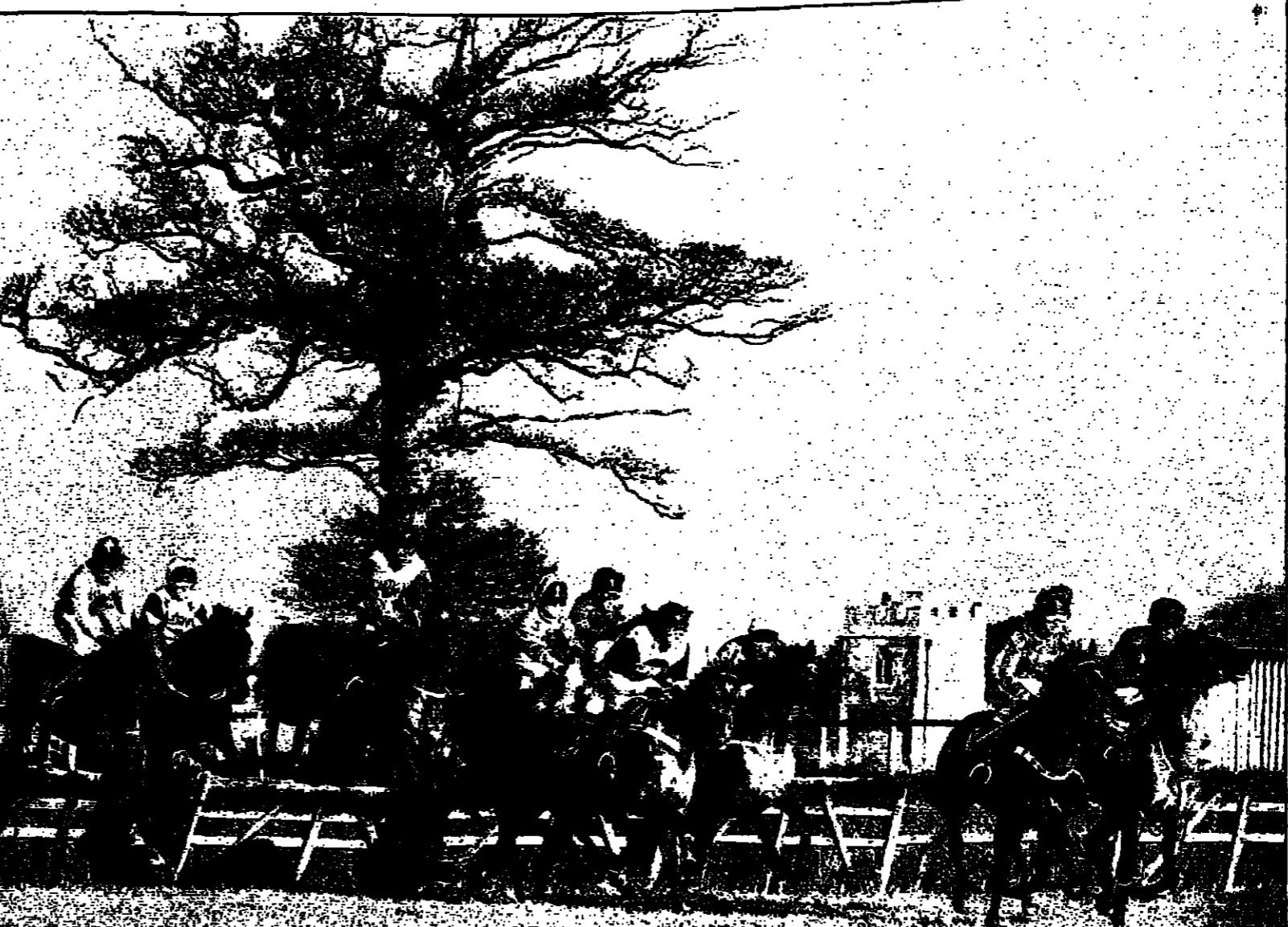
It is an urge which is still worth resisting, just as it was six days ago. Although Get Real was an impressive winner over course and distance last time out, he previously ran a strange race at Warwick, when he seemed close to collapse after passing the post having looked

**RICHARD EDMONDSON**  
Nap: Native Fling  
(Ascot 2.0)  
NB: Crazy Horse  
(Kels 1.50)

a sure winner two out. Consider also, that he may be taken on for the lead by Monnaie Forte, and his price looks very thin.

The same is true of most of his rivals, though, and perhaps the only quote which could seem unusually generous when the bell sounds on the home turn this afternoon is the 14-1 chalked up against Call Equine. Paul Nicholls's chaser is making his seasonal debut, but he has won first time up for the last two seasons, and that is generally about all he has done, since injury has tended to intervene shortly afterwards. As a result, though, Call Equine

3.40), an interesting 14-1 chance, will be fitter today than when a good third on his seasonal debut, while away from the cameras, the most significant action at Kelso, where the Morebattle Hurdle will see the return to action of Deep Water. Micky Hammond's runner won the big juvenile hurdle at Aintree in April and is yet another potential live outsider with reports from other layers that Istabraq would not run.



The opening novices' hurdle on a sunny day at Taunton yesterday had an appropriate winner in Perfect Venue

Julian Herbert/Allsport

## Confidence is restored in Istabraq

THE IRISH bookmaker Paddy Power, satisfied by Aidan O'Brien's assurances that all is well with Istabraq, yesterday reopened their betting on Sunday's Champion Hurdle at Leopardstown. The Dublin firm had suspended betting as support for the Ferdy Murphy-trained French Holy coincided with reports from other layers that Istabraq would not run.

On Wednesday evening O'Brien issued a categorical denial of the scare story, reporting Istabraq to be "fine" and insisting that there is "no change" in connections' running plans for Sunday.

Power's Stewart Kenny said: "It was one of those situations where rumours swept across the Irish betting industry that Istabraq was not going to run."

The rumour mill is also working strongly in Britain with William Hill giving credence to the notion that Bionic has suffered a recurrence of a foot problem by demoting her from the head of their betting for the 1,000 Guineas. Prince Khalid Abdullah's racing manager, Grant Pritchard-Gordon, yesterday refused to deny reports that all is not well with the filly.

William Hill reacted by clipping the Lowther Stakes winner Bint Alayli to 4-1 market leader and pushed Bionic out to a point to 6-1.

The firm's David Hood explained: "We have made our changes because we have seen little nibbles of money for Bint Alayli over the last few weeks, and, although it appeared insignificant, Bionic has a history of niggling problems and anything that may occur at this time of year is not ideal for her Guineas preparation."

He is not on a full-time contract at Vicarage Road, he can still count his Premiership outings on the fingers of one hand and he knows that when Roberto Grau the Pampas Bull, returns from injury, he will automatically relinquish his status as Series' number one No 1. He is unlikely to spend much time in the shadows, however, for he is almost certainly the most exciting front-row prospect to emerge from the south-east

since Jason Leonard outgrew his Barking homestead and headed for the bright lights of the capital a decade or more ago.

"Funny enough, it wasn't David I went to see that," says Evans. "I'd heard very good reports of one of his acquaintances, hence my visit. But don't take to identifying real class act and, hopefully, for us to be signed as an amateur professional on his behalf."

Fleming turned 19 yesterday and called me a sadbastard, but that afternoon on the touchline got me David Fizstern. And, that, let me tell you, was a major result.

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# Flatman flat out in the fast lane

**New faces for 1999:** Saracens' 6ft, 17 stone teenager is proving a rugby union revelation. By Chris Hewett

MARK EVANS might have spent his only free Saturday of last season queuing for a tub of supermarket taramasalata or playing frisbee with the kids. "It would have earned me a few brownie points, that's for sure," he admits. But Evans did no such thing. Saracens' director of rugby and talent-spotted supreme doffed his amoral and headed for a Dulwich College school match instead. "I call me a sad bastard, but that afternoon on the touchline got me David Flatman. And that, let me tell you, was a major result."

Flatman turned 19 yesterday. He is not on a full-time contract at Vicarage Road, he still counts his Premiership outings on the fingers of one hand and he knows that when Roberto Grau, the Pumas Bull, returns from injury, he will automatically reinvoke his status as Sarries' number one. He is unlikely to spend much time in the shadows, however, for he is almost certainly the most exciting front-row prospect to emerge from the south-east since Jason Leonard outgrew his Barking homestead and headed for the bright lights of the capital a decade or more ago.

"Funny enough, it wasn't David I went to see that day," says Evans. "We'd heard very good reports of one of his schoolmates, hence my visit. But it didn't take long to identify the real class act and, happily for us, he signed as an associate professional on his 18th birthday."

Flatman, who hails from Midsomer, remembers the occasion every bit as vividly. "Our opponents were pretty weak at the set-piece and I grabbed a couple of lucky tries into the bargain, so I must have looked

quite good," he laughs. "When the offer came to join Saracens, I snatched their hands off. I'm not on big money or anything like that, but just at the moment, I couldn't care less. I'd happily do this for nothing."

At 6ft and 17 stones, Flatman is still growing; according to Evans he is "as strong as an ox" and will be a "real handful when he fills right out".

But, on the evidence of his early contests with three English international tight-heads – Rob Hardwick of London Irish, Victor Ubogu of Bath and Will Green of Wasps – he is already there or thereabouts in the physical department. "As with any teenager there are big areas for improvement," points out Evans. "He needs to improve aerobically and work on his ball skills. But he's a listener – he's a thinking player for every last drop of information – and his attitude is exemplary. As for raw material, it's coming out of his ears."

For all his tender years, Flatman already bears the stamp of a career prop; after all, he first supped from the beer mug of front-row troglodytes at the age of seven. He made the England Schools team a year early in 1996 and anchored them not only to an international Grand Slam, but to a fine victory over Australia in Australia. A Triple Crown followed last season, plus an England Coats cap against Argentina.

Then, last month, came the sweetest moment yet: a triumphant Under-21 appearance against South Africa at Twickenham. "Quite something, that one," he says. "We had a side full of good players and everyone performed. A convincing win against any Springbok team is worth celebrating.



David Flatman: The most exciting front-row prospect from the south-east since Jason Leonard. Robert Hallam

"Fortunately, there are enough good people at Saracens, people who have been there and done it at the highest level, to ensure that I keep my feet firmly on the ground and stay on the straight and narrow. Every Premiership game I've played has been a big learning experience, especially the one at Wasps earlier this month. While I have no doubt whatsoever that our own Paul Wallace is the best tight-head in the league, I think Will Green is the best Englishman in his position. He made me work really hard that night; he mixed things up, tried a few tricks and made sure that no two scrums were the same. When I came off, I knew I'd been in a match. Experience like that is incredibly valuable."

It is ironic that Evans, a former deputy headmaster, should have been instrumental in steering Flatman away from

academia, in the August shape of Durham University, and into the burgeoning academy known as Saracens. Still, there is enough of the teacher left in Evans to ensure that the youngster makes the best of himself. "We like to look after our prospects here and part of that process is keeping them on the level," he explains. "I've seen too many young forwards, especially props, pay a heavy price for allowing themselves to be pushed too far, too soon. We don't intend to make that mistake with David, or anyone else for that matter."

"He is one hell of a talent though. I don't want him to get too excited about him because, if you go over the top about an 18-year-old, the consequences can be grim for everyone concerned. But, that said, if it's difficult not to get excited about someone of his age playing as he has done over the last four weeks."

# Hutton to plead his innocence

BY CHRIS HEWETT

RICHMOND ARE mounting a fierce assault on Bath's reputation as the hottest legal referee in the Allied Dunbar Premiership. A matter of weeks after getting Scott Quinnell, their international No 8, off the disciplinary hook by successfully appealing against his sending-off against Wasps back in October, the Londoners are about to try something similar on behalf of another loose forward, Robbie Hutton. If it works they will be able to claim a better success rate than Rumpole of the Bailey.

Hutton was given the pointed finger treatment at Gloucester last weekend after taking a last-minute knock on the back of Andy Hazell, his opposite number. It was not a decision that impressed the visitors and yesterday club officials confirmed their intention to fight the case. "We will not be taking any internal disciplinary measures against Robbie," a Richmond spokesman said. "Having studied the video evidence, we will attend the disciplinary hearing and argue that he should not have been dismissed."

Quinnell, who has since rejoined Llanelli, was initially banned for 14 days for late-tackling Lawrence Dallaglio, the England captain, during an early-season match at Loftus Road. The Welshman appealed and was exonerated in time to play for his country against Argentina in November. Bath still lead the way in the acquittal business, however. They have managed to get two of their international forwards, Ben Sturman and Victor Ubogu, cleared by Rugby Football Union tribunals this season.

Still on the issue of guilt, the RFU itself must wait until next week to learn what punishment the International Rugby Board intends to impose in the strange case of the broken pledge. The IRB decided earlier this month that Twickenham had reneged on its promise of support for the board in its European Commission battle with the English Premiership clubs and demanded a response. The RFU made their views known yesterday, but details of any official sanction will not be conveyed until members of the IRB's disciplinary committee discuss the matter via an inter-continental telephone link-up.

Meanwhile, Bristol's takeover move for London Scottish is likely to drag on for some time to come. "Because the ball of string we are trying to unravel is so knotted, I think it is in everyone's best interests to continue our talks privately," said Malcolm Pearce, Bristol's millionaire owner, yesterday as he played down any prospect of an early agreement between the two sides. His reticence fuelled suspicion that Bristol will abandon the deal if next week's negotiations on a new league structure are resolved to their satisfaction.

# Cities ready to stage slick show

SOME OF Europe's most talented youngsters will be among those competing this weekend for the inaugural Women's World Cities Championship at the Bells Sports Centre in Perth.

The event takes the form of a round robin, allowing each of the seven participating teams an opportunity to measure their skills against the others. The opening games this evening feature Sydney, a strong Australian selection, against Toronto of Canada while Perth, who will be represented by the current Scottish squad, take on the Scottish champions Westcoast Western (Glasgow Western).

Tonight London, Manchester and Paris join in Slough, the English Club champions, will be representing London with their array of internationals including the ever-green Lesley Hobley, who won the first of four indoor caps for Great Britain in 1980. Mandy Nicholson leads the Slough side.

The England Under-21 squad, preparing for the European Championships next month in Prague, will represent Manchester. The squad includes three players – Highgate's Kate Walsh, Clifton's Isabel Palmer and Helen Richardson from Leicester – already capped by England at senior level. The French Under-21 squad will represent Paris.

The English domestic scene is restricted to tomorrow's National League play-offs at Cock's Moors Woods, Birmingham

where the five regional winners – North Staffs, Harlesden Magpies, Dulwich, Welton and Exeter – will be competing with Sheffield for the two winners to move into next season's Division Two of the National League.

way back in 1980. Mandy Nicholson leads the Slough side.

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Slough, the English Club

# Absent Saib to feel Graham's force

**MOUSSA SAIB** could be on his way out of White Hart Lane after defying George Graham and trying to join the Algerian national squad for their friendly against Tunisia on Sunday.

George Graham will contact the Football Association for guidance on dealing with the midfielder's "disappearing" act. The Tottenham manager said: "He has shown a lack of respect to the club and the fans and, without question, he'll be seriously disciplined."

Saib, the Algerian captain who was signed by Graham's predecessor Christian Gross for

BY BILL PIERCE

£3m from Valencia less than a year ago, has only recently returned to training after a back operation in September and after just two games in the reserves to step up his rehabilitation programme he was refused permission to link up with the Algerian squad.

But after discovering that Saib had disregarded that order, Graham said: "I'm extremely disappointed with the boy and also the Algerian FA, who have not given us any feedback on our message to

them that he is not medically right to play at that level yet."

"What our fans will want to know is why isn't Saib available for Tottenham and yet suddenly pops up to play in Algeria. He has played only one game and a half in the reserves after a big operation on his back in September."

"He has been very well looked after here and that's what makes what he has done so disappointing. I'm contacting the FA for guidance about how we deal with this kind of situation. We told Saib he could not have permission to go to

Algeria but then he's just decided to disappear."

Saib, who made only made sporadic appearances in the first-team last season, will now face a hefty fine but could also be placed on the transfer list.

Graham has a formidable track record of dealing with players who do not toe the line and there is no doubt he feels this is a major betrayal by Saib.

Graham said: "It's the kind of problem you sometimes get when you sign foreign players but I'm certainly not going to just accept it."

This new problem with a

foreign player has not stopped Spurs eyeing up the French defender, Alain Goma. "I've been interested in Goma for some time but there are difficulties in trying to get him here," Graham said.

Paris St-Germain are believed to be holding out for a £2m-plus fee for a player who has already indicated that he will be leaving them at the end of the season.

John Gregory yesterday shrugged off Stan Collymore's complaints about not getting in the Aston Villa team. Collymore, 28 today, has made it

clear he is unhappy at not being a regular in the starting line-up. He has been left on the bench for six of his side's last eight games but Gregory, the Villa manager, said: "I haven't got time to worry about it - there's too much work to do."

Aston Villa are considering what to do next in their dispute over the valuation of highly-rated defender Gareth Barry.

Villa were handed a suspended fine of £16,000 and had £200,000 of their television revenue diverted to Brighton and Hove Albion, following their refusal to pay the Third

Division club the latest installment of the compensation settlement for the 17-year-old.

The club were withholding the payment until they are told just how the independent tribunal came to set a compensation figure that could top £1m.

Villa's secretary-director Steve Stride said: "We have to decide whether to continue the fight or not. What we find baffling is that we wrote to the tribunal chairman back in October asking for an explanation as to how they arrived at such a high figure - and we are still awaiting a reply."

BY NICK HARRIS

ENGLAND WILL play Hungary on 28 April in Budapest as part of their preparations for the crucial Euro 2000 qualifier against Bulgaria less than two months later. It was announced yesterday that Glenn Hoddle's side will play Sweden at Wembley at the start of June, followed by the Bulgarians, away, a few days later. Hoddle has organised the April friendly as he believes the Hungarian side mirror the style of the Bulgarians.

The news came on the same day that the national side and much of British football mortgaged its short-term image by signing a sponsorship agreement with a building society. The Nationwide announced a wide-ranging deal for the game worth an estimated total of £25m over four years. The deal means the company will succeed Green Flag as the England national side's main sponsor for the next four years, will continue as sponsor of the Football League for another two years, and become the new sponsor of the Football Conference. The company will also become an associate sponsor of the Scotland team for four seasons and continue its sponsorship of the Irish League Gold Cup for two years.

The new sponsor's chief executive, Brian Davis, said: "We need to consistently re-emphasise our brand to as many people as possible."

Hoddle said: "This is a deal which is great for all of football, not just the England team."

While yesterday's deal shows how attractive football has become to commercial investors in recent years, it also highlights the gaping divide between the different levels of the national sport.

Whereas yesterday's endorsement will see one company paying £25m to effectively sponsor all major football events in the country (including the national side) for four years, the Premier League's comparative deal with Carling (for just one division) is worth £26m alone.

Speaking after yesterday's deal was announced, Hoddle took the opportunity to say he believed the public are firmly behind him and his team, despite less than scintillating performances in the most recent Euro 2000 qualifiers. He added that the fact that next month's friendly at Wembley against France has sold out almost three weeks before it is due to be played proves that the public are behind him.

"I pushed for the game and the French came back straight away saying they wanted to play at all levels, which shows the pull we still have and that Wembley is the place where people want to come and play," Hoddle said. "It couldn't be a better friendly fixture as they don't come any bigger than the world champions and the public have already responded with a full-house."

"I'm not sure that a dip in public support has been there anyway. There was a good crowd for the Czech Republic game [a friendly England won 2-0 in November] at late notice and a full-house here at Wembley is an excellent turn-out. If always is, they always support the team very well."

The main concern for us is the next two qualifying games at Wembley. If we can chalk up two wins from those games then that will put a completely different complexion on the group.

The Czech Republic game was good for us if we hadn't played that game, it would have been a longer gap. If we can get the same result and performance against France, it will be well worth it for us."

There are certain players who will gain from that experience, particularly if it's a younger player."

**TODAY'S NUMBER**  
**927,024**

*The number of people who visited Barcelona's club museum last year - an increase of more than 10 per cent on 1997, making it Spain's fourth most popular museum.*



Gary Megson had a near-impossible job when he took over as the Stockport manager

**England set for Hungary warm-up**

**FA Cup countdown:** Stockport's manager faces his old club tomorrow and risks ruining his son's day

## Megson tries to play down the romance

**WHEN GARY** Megson's nine-year-old son watched the FA Cup fourth-round draw he turned to his father and said "oh, you're out", which was not an extreme bout of pessimism or a ritual to bring good luck. He was stating his belief.

Simon Megson, as befitting the son and the grandson of former Sheffield Wednesday players, is blue and white through and through and the minor inconvenience that his father is manager of Stockport County, who play at Hillsborough tomorrow, is not going to test that affection.

"He'll not have divided loyalties at all," Megson said: "he'll be supporting Wednesday. But I won't have divided loyalties either, which is more pertinent."

It is fair to say, though, that Megson would be rooting for Wednesday if their Cup route was barred by anyone else. He lives in Sheffield, he played 250 league games for the club in two spells under Jack Charlton and Howard Wilkinson and his father, Don, was a distinguished left-back at Hillsborough in the 50s and 60s and played in the 1966 FA Cup final.

Even now Megson (middle) spends a lot of time at the club relieving himself of what he describes as "a small fortune" buying merchandise from Wednesday's souvenir shop. Needless to say, they are for Simon.

The links between Megson and Wednesday are strong and certainly too robust to be broken by his attempt to move the agenda on. "I've been trying to play down anything to do with me but it's proving impossible. I won't kick a ball, make a tackle or get or goal and people should not forget that. It's the players who are important."

"There is romance for an ex-player meeting his old club, but for a manager it's not there. To be honest I'd rather be playing a lower-level club on our pitch to make as much money as possible."

BY GLENN MOORE

possible for Stockport. Drawing a Premiership club away is not designed to do that."

As a whole-hearted midfield player Megson reached the semi-finals three times (twice with Wednesday, once with Everton) but a place beneath the twin towers was denied him. That has made him appreciate the Cup more.

"It was galling to come so close and lose the lot and what's worse is my assistant is Mike Phelan, who won it with Manchester United, and he's not shy in reminding me. We tell the players that even if you play a long time you'll be lucky to get 20 goals at the FA Cup, so you have to give everything on the day."

Megson was one of those

have struggled. The people here don't come in vast numbers but they're not thick, they know that 10 years ago this place was applying for re-election and it doesn't get put right overnight.

"We've survived because of our home form and the fans have to take credit because they make it an uncomfortable place to visit."

To say they survived is to underplay Megson's achievement, because Stockport revived to an extent they finished eighth, the highest rung they have ever reached on the league ladder. This time they are not comfortable but they are five points above the relegation places.

"It's more difficult because of the expectancy. Now it's seen as we're not too clever whereas if we'd been in this position last year we'd have been four or five places above where people thought we'd be."

"I'm convinced it's always more difficult to survive the second year than the first because you haven't got the newness and the enthusiasm. Bradford stayed up the first year, struggled the second and now they're flying."

Megson hopes tomorrow's tie will make Stockport airborne, although he is aware Wednesday have taken wing themselves and beat West Ham 4-0 at Upton Park last week. "If we give everything we've got and still don't win, then fair enough. There's no reason the opposition should work harder than you, be more organised or that their set pieces should be better than yours."

"It's just if the tie turns on players who can beat four players, turn on a tamer, and then chip the ball into the top corner they might have more people who can do that. But it doesn't always work out that way and they shouldn't want it more than my players."

The Megsons will all want to win this match badly. You wonder about the atmosphere in the family home on Saturday evening...

players who rarely could be faulted on that count and his enthusiasm for work has followed him into management from Norwich to Blackpool and eternally cash-strapped Stockport. Many people would have been reluctant to succeed Dave Jones after his phenomenal season of 1996-97 when Stockport were promoted from the Second Division and reached the League Cup semi-finals, but he took it on.

It was a hard act to follow and the word had deteriorated to impossible when County did not win any of their first seven League games. "It wasn't easy," he agreed, "but the good thing was it was all new, nobody could say we did this or that last time in the First Division. Dave Jones did a marvellous job but nobody really expected Stockport to survive."

"The supporters weren't anti-me and if they had been we'd

## NON-LEAGUE NOTEBOOK

BY RUPERT METCALF

together again, with the former appointed manager of Barrow and the latter working as a consultant.

"Shane is the manager and I'm there in an advisory capacity as a consultant until the end of the season," Beck said. "Shane lives in Lincoln and he will commute until the end of the season and then we'll review the situation and consider relocating. Our aim is to survive in the Conference and I think our chances are 50-50 at the moment. They did tremendously well to get promoted last season and the worst thing that could happen is to come straight back down again."

Barrow have been in turmoil since early last month when their chairman and major backer, Stephen Vaughan, resigned following the start of an on-going fraud investigation into a share issue made by the club in October. The police probe is not the

only financial crisis facing the Cumbrian club: on Monday they face a winding-up order in court in Barrow over an alleged £41,000 debt to a construction company for ground improvements carried out at Holker Street last summer.

To add to their woes, a club director, Pat Brewer, who is also Barrow's secretary, was suspended last weekend pending an investigation into alleged irregularities in players' contracts. She has subsequently resigned from the board. Another director, Rick Lucas, a night-club manager, has also quit the board after declaring himself "deeply unhappy with the way the club is being run".

Brown, who was also a director, was sacked as manager; according to the acting chairman Phil Cowling, because "he was asked to reduce the wage bill considerably and he made no attempt to do that." The disciplinary record also had to improve because of a suspended £5,000 Football Association fine which is hanging over the club from last season. In fact, it has got worse."

## Branca questions Boro decision to retire him

**MIDDLESBROUGH** WERE yesterday standing firm about the future of the Italian striker Marco Branca - even though the player has denied his career is over.

The club announced earlier this week that it had reluctantly terminated the 34-year-old's contract because of the long-standing knee injury which had limited his involvement to just one appearance as a substitute in the last nine months. But the move apparently came as a shock to the former Internazionale forward, who said: "Retirement? I don't know anything about this. Nobody has told me anything."

However, a Boro spokesman, Dave Allan, reiterated that Branca had been given six months' notice of his contract in October after a consultant surgeon advised that the knee would not stand up to the rigours of professional football. ■ The FA's Sanctions and Regulations committee has unanimously rejected a proposal by the Conference to form a second division.

Meanwhile, the fluidity of Premiership refereeing. The Redhill official, out of action with a back injury after being pushed

over by Paolo di Canio in September, will take charge of Nottingham Forest v Manchester United on 6 February.

Huddersfield Town yesterday received a major boost when the millionaire businessman Barry Rubery bought a 70 per cent controlling interest in the club. Rubery, who recently floated his satellite decoding equipment company Pace Micro Technology, has been in talks with the Terriers for six months over the buyout, thought to be in the region of £8m.

Steve Wignall has resigned as the manager of Colchester United after four years in charge. He had guided the team to two Wembley appearances and promotion from the Third Division last season, but the Layer Road outfit are now struggling in the Second. Steve Whittaker and Micky Cook take caretaker charge.

Paul Alcock is to return to Premiership refereeing. The Redhill official, out of action with a back injury after being pushed

over by Paolo di Canio in September, will take charge of Nottingham Forest v Manchester United on 6 February.

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Liverpool are giving the Norwegian Under-18 international goalkeeper Espen Johnsen a 10-day trial, with a view to making the move from Start permanent.

Ronnie Moore and Steve Parkin have agreed to be wired up to heart monitors when Mansfield tackle Rotherham in tonight's Sky Sports televised fixture at Field Mill. The experiment is designed to give viewers a unique insight into stress levels in management.

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# Garbutt gains as Els wilts in heat

ENGLAND'S IAN GARBUTT was among a trio of players who carded a four-under-par round of 67 to share a one-stroke lead after the opening round of the South African Open in Stellenbosch. Garbutt, Germany's Sven Struver and Ronnie McCann, a South African who has settled in the United States, moved to the head of the leaderboard as local players battled to overcome the sweltering conditions.

"To go out at 6.50am was a perfect start. I definitely had the best of the weather because it was cool with hardly any wind," said Garbutt, whose previous best finish was seventh in last year's Dutch Open. "I hit some good iron shots and my putting was much better than in the PGA last week when I finished 38th."

Faldo, who notched up two birdies and an eagle but also carded three bogeys, was another player who teed off early.

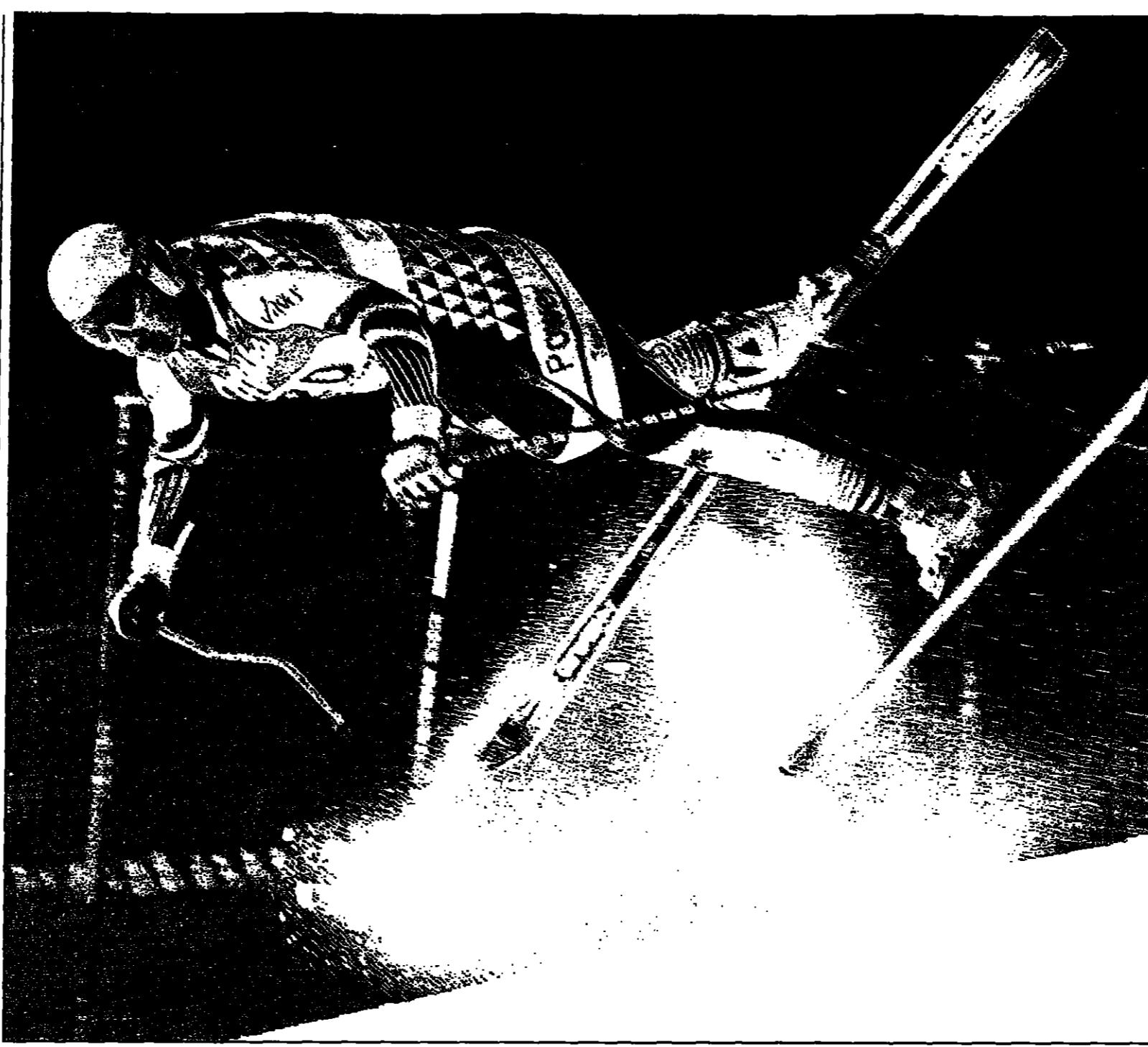
"There is no wind and conditions are just perfect for scoring," he said after his round. "The greens are holding, it's there for the taking. Faldo should be 68, absolute max. Ernie should shoot 65 or 66, and others, too."

However, as the heat increased and the wind picked up, Els struggled after teeing off just before midday despite the overwhelming support of a vocal crowd. The South African began with four straight pars before birdieing the fifth and sixth and looked set for a repeat of his performance last week when he won by a comfortable four strokes. But he came adrift at the eighth where, after recovering from a bunker, he missed a short putt to log a bogey five.

On the back nine Els bogeyed holes 10 and 11 before steady himself and he managed to pull back the two dropped shots by birdieing the 12th and 14th holes only to bogey the 18th to finish the day level.

Garbutt grabbed five birdies and carded just one dropped shot when three-putting from the fringe at the sixth, while Struver, former South African PGA champion, and McCann bagged four birdies each.

**GOLF**  
BY PAUL SHORT  
in Stellenbosch, South Africa



The Austrian Patrick Ortlib takes the high-speed tumble which left him with serious injuries in training at Kitzbühel yesterday AP

## Ortlib suffers horrific accident

PATRICK ORTLIEB, Austria's former world and Olympic downhill champion, suffered a career-threatening broken thigh and other serious injuries yesterday when he crashed in training for this weekend's World Cup races here.

doctors said that, as well as breaking his thigh, Ortlib had also torn lateral ligaments in his right knee and his lungs had collapsed.

A

winner here in 1994 and world champion two years later; Ortlib lost control on the final Haubersberg corner before the finish straight, cartwheeled forward and crashed heavily into safety nets.

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Frederic Marin-

Cudraz, who became the fifth French downhill skier to suffer a bad injury this season. Marin-

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# SPORT

EMERSON STILL THE TENNIS ACE P22 • MEGSON FAMILY DIVIDED P26

## Challenge Cup final moves to Scotland

RUGBY LEAGUE

By DAVE HADFIELD

THE GAME'S biggest event will move outside England for the first time when the Challenge Cup final is staged at Murrayfield in the Millennium season.

The home of Scottish rugby union has been earmarked as the venue for rugby league's greatest gathering of the clans in the year 2000, when Wembley will be being rebuilt.

The League had also considered Twickenham and the new national stadium in Cardiff as possible temporary homes; but Edinburgh will be widely welcomed as the most imaginative answer to the question of where to play the match next year.

"We had to ensure that during the time Wembley is out of commission we located a high quality stadium that matched the final's status as a sporting event and we have no doubt that Murrayfield fulfils that requirement," said the Rugby League's chief executive, Neil Tunnicliffe.

"During the many years that the game has been staged at Wembley, rugby league followers have become accustomed to celebrating the event by taking a weekend away in London. Our decision to move the game to the capital city of Scotland will afford our supporters a new opportunity to travel to one of the most beautiful cities in the world."

"We have consulted properly with our supporters as well as with our clubs to take their preferences into account when making this important choice."

The code will be making its debut at the stadium, although there have been recent internationals in Glasgow and an "on the road" fixture between Bradford Bulls and London Broncos at Hearts' Tynecastle ground last year.

There is also a growing amateur league scene in Scotland, which Tunnicliffe said the decision to take the game's showpiece there was designed to foster.

The obvious drawback is that Murrayfield's capacity is only 67,500, enough to accommodate last season's relatively poorly supported final but only sufficient for three other attendances since the Second World War.

No decision has been made yet on the venue for 2001.



Britain's Greg Rusedski, the No 8 seed, is bowled over before being knocked out of the Australian Open by the American qualifier Paul Goldstein in Melbourne yesterday

Reuters

## Rusedski rues lost chance

GREG RUSEDSKI was left wondering whether he should have followed Pete Sampras's example and taken a month off after he was knocked out of the Australian Open here yesterday. The British No 2 and eighth seed lost to a player ranked 179 places below him, the American qualifier Paul Goldstein in the second round.

Goldstein, who was playing only his 10th match on the men's tour since turning professional last autumn, triumphed 6-4, 7-6, 6-2 in a game lasting a minute under three hours. Even in the set Rusedski won he needed eight set points - it went to 11-9 in the tie-break - and against a player he said was among the best

TENNIS  
By DERRICK WHYTE  
in Melbourne

returners of serve he had ever faced, the 25-year-old made a ghastly total of 76 unforced errors.

"I got only 51 per cent of my first serves in and against a player with his quality of return you have to be up at about 60 per cent at least."

The 22-year-old Goldstein graduated from Stanford University in California last summer - he was a fellow student of Tiger Woods - and at the US Open in September took a set of Sampras. Rusedski watched that match but still was not quite prepared for yesterday's display.

At the moment it hurts because this was a good opportunity the way the draw was

panning out but maybe, in retrospect, it will prove good for me. I'm very disappointed but I couldn't raise my game to the level I had to and he returned unbelievably well. He challenged me every single point and I was not up to the task.

"Greg is one of the top two or three servers in the game, but I went in with a fair bit of confidence."

Rusedski's frustration was apparent to everyone when he missed his second set-point chance at 5-4 in the second set. He angrily smashed the ball down the other end of the court, almost hitting a line judge, and was given a warning.

After eventually levelling, the third set went with serve

into another tie-breaker. Goldstein won that 7-5 with a double-handed winner which flashed across Rusedski from the backhand wing and, with his tail up, he hit three more to break in the opening game of the fourth set.

At that Rusedski slung his racket away and it was hardly worth retrieving. He was broken again for 4-1 and virtually gave up. He did save two match points but on a third he hit a smash way over the baseline.

John McEnroe came through the qualifying to reach the Wimbledon semi-finals in 1977 - when he was aged 18 - but Goldstein may have to beat that.

"I play my best tennis when I'm pumped. Today I lost some

emotion at the end. I couldn't stay pumped for the whole match and I think it showed in the end."

In the women's singles, Anna Kournikova advanced in a match littered with unforced errors. To groans from the crowd, the 18-year-old Russian racked up an astonishing 31 double faults in overcoming Miho Saeki of Japan.

Time appears to be catching up on Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario. The No 4 seed ran up against the electrifying Austrian prospect Barbara Schett, whose power play unplugged the Spaniard's challenge.

Results, Digest, page 27;  
Goldstein's graduation  
page 22

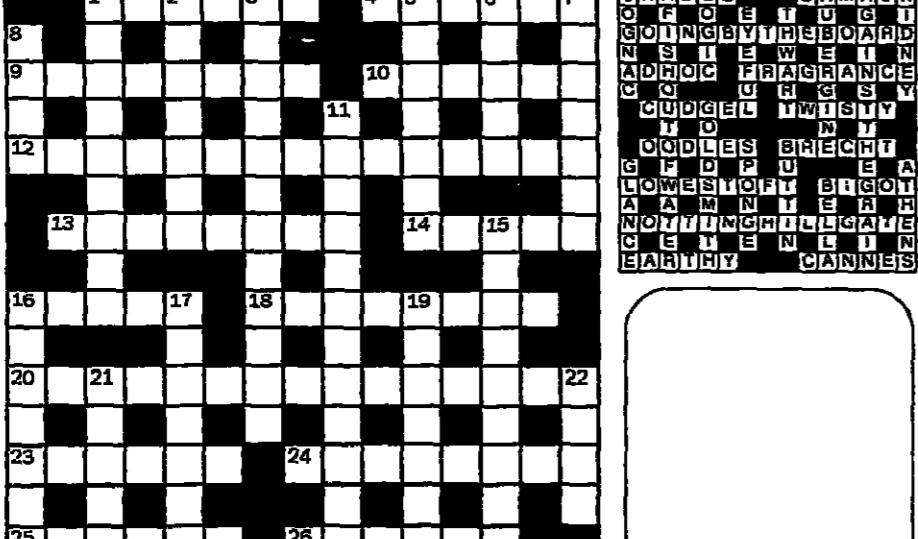
yet on the venue for 2001.

### THE FRIDAY CROSSWORD

No.3826 Friday 22 January

by Mass

Thursday's solution



**ACROSS**

- Bones and skins without measure (6)
- Constant interference (6)
- Unfavourable rainy clouds from an Adriatic region (8)
- Lawyer constrained by new iron decree (6)
- Anything but ponderous (5,2,1,7)
- Join together for solace, moving off to church (8)
- Half a month left to produce book (5)
- State's introduced a new waterway (5)
- Independent state, in name (8)
- In which getting on may well be of primary concern? (8,7)

**DOWN**

- Ample robe clothing royal adult (4-5)
- Bridal material, baroque but not eastern (7)
- Tax Return? (12)
- Water creature quietly abandoned land (7)
- Toreador's first hot-headed bull (5)
- Study most of dwarf's dial? (7)
- Face set, looking up (4)
- Gas-fired? (12)
- Caught the Blues after six wins (9)
- In act, spurious - mere show (7)
- Runs from fifty snakes (7)
- Furnish new home for lady, put up over river (7)
- Paddy's explosive, bowled out (6)
- Drop eastern guru (4)

## Ferguson no friend to Foe

### FOOTBALL

By ALAN NIXON

prepared to wait, but if he goes

now he has got an opportunity to move, I think he will do well, he's a very good player. We will stand back from that one."

Ferguson revealed last night that he will not try to sign Foe from the French side, Lens, this season, even if it means losing out on him to the Hammers, who are hoping to do a quick deal.

Foe was at Old Trafford in August for a medical, but was not judged fully fit after a leg break that also ruled him out of the World Cup finals.

Ferguson has watched him since, but because Lens used Foe in the Champions League - briefly, as a substitute in the last game - there is little point in United buying him immediately, as he is cup-tied.

The United manager denied last night that the club's pic board had blocked move for Foe, and said: "We felt that due to his injury we should look at him over the season. We were

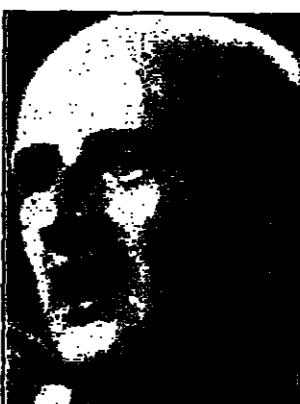
because they want a lump sum to build a new stand.

Blackburn's latest bid is £1.5m up front and the rest in appearances, but Crewe need £2m now to renovate their main stand at Gresty Road. Kidd hopes a compromise figure can be reached to tie up Johnson, who can play in midfield or at left-back.

Crystal Palace's Italian international Attilio Lombardo flew to Rome last night in the hope of completing a move to Lazio. The First Division club confirmed that their midfielder and former caretaker manager was talking with the Serie A side.

Lombardo, who has 18 Italian caps, played 24 times for the Eagles as they slipped out of the Premiership last season and has been a regular this term as they have tried to bounce back.

The Blackburn Rovers manager Brian Kidd has made a new £2.5m offer for Crewe's promising youngster, Seth Johnson, but the struggling First Division club have turned down an instalment package and the option of a player swap



Lombardo: Lazio bound

Arsenal were preparing £5m bids for the 16-year-old, who is Molineux's leading scorer this season with 14 goals.

"Talk of £5m is a joke," said Lee. "That wouldn't even buy one of his arms and it's his legs which are supposed to be valuable. The stories are rubbish. Bryan Robson is supposed to have spoken to me about him yesterday but I haven't spoken to Robson for ages. In fact, no one has ever phoned me about Robbie Keane, or made an offer."

More news, page 26

## Mass ban for indisciplined Spartans

### RUGBY UNION

By CHRIS HEWETT

Cinderford last month, they

overstepped the mark.

Phillip Ware, a poor put-upon referee from Cornwall, had already dismissed two Spartan pugilists when he decided that the other 13 should join them in what is commonly termed the "early bath". The game was abandoned shortly

before the interval - well, there were no Spartans left on the field - and on Wednesday night, the Gloucestershire disciplinary committee imposed a mass, two-week suspension on the miscreants.

Bobby Fowke, a hard-nut flanker who played top-flight rugby with Gloucester before returning to his local outfit, placed the blame squarely at the feet of Mr Ware. "The referee's report blamed us entirely, which

does seem a little odd considering there were two sides on the field."

Fowke, who was one of those originally dismissed for fighting,

agreed with the decision. "It's a problem," he agreed. "It's going to have to field reserve teams in our next two league games and, although we're in mid-table at the moment, a couple of defeats could put us in relegation trouble."

Fowke was dealt with at a previous disciplinary hearing

and although he was suspended for 35 days he is now available again - unlike his 14 club-mates.

"It's a problem," he agreed.

"We're going to have to field reserve teams in our next two league games and, although we're in mid-table at the moment, a couple of defeats could put us in relegation trouble."

As they say in all the best Gloucestershire clubhouses, life can be a bitch.

## FRIDAY REVIEW

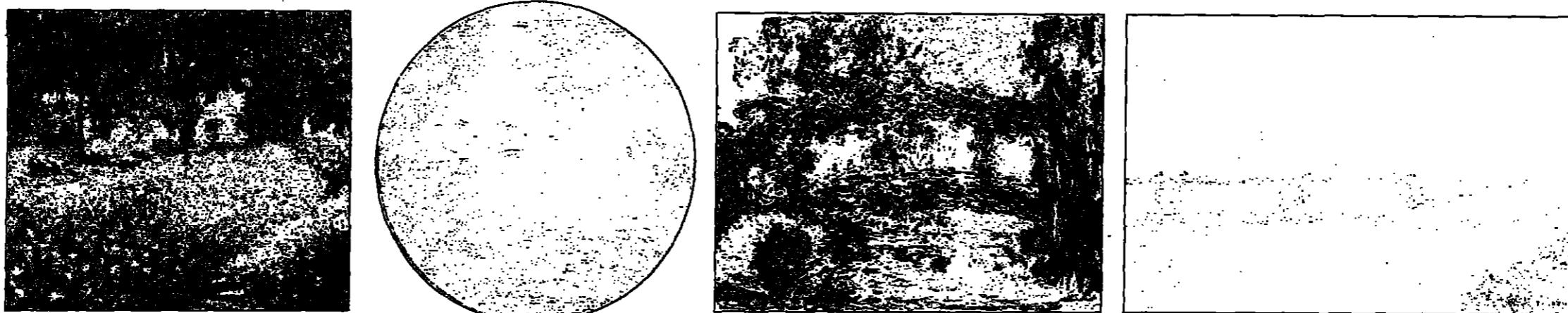
COMMENT • FEATURES • ARTS • LISTINGS • TELEVISION



## Monet, Monet, Monet

If the British public sees one exhibition this year, it will be Monet at the Royal Academy. As the crowds gather, the RA stands accused of shameless commercialism. Is this any way to treat the great Impressionist?

BY TOM LUBBOCK



Landscape painting, William Hazlitt said, is "the obvious resource of misanthropy". For the viewer as well as the artist, it's a chance to get away from them all. But if you love the scenes of Claude Monet, his views of the Giverny garden, say, his wide stretches of pond water, then you'd better love your fellow humans too. You're not likely to escape them that way. Quite the contrary.

Nine years ago the Royal Academy staged "Monet in the 90s", and at the height of that exhibition the main thing it offered the visitor was a chance to study crowd-movements in close quarters. Now we have "Monet in the 20th Century". I don't think the artist's popularity has waned much in the interval, though perhaps the RA has got more adept in crowd-management. At any rate, it's curious to consider that in the pictures themselves – if a

"I can catch a glimpse of them – you'll not see a living soul. Now I must not gloat. I have seen this show. I saw it on Monday. And for quite a lot of the time – give or take the odd guard, fellow critic, curator and an easily avoidable TV crew – I was more or less alone in it. Of course, I'm very glad of this. But it does mean that the show I saw, and the one you may see, are likely to be significantly different. The exhibition opens tomorrow. If a rapid response hadn't been requested, I'd have gone back again in public hours, to experience real viewing conditions – and not just to gauge the practical problems. Seeing and the self and sooth are pretty central matters to Monet's late art.

But the first wonder is how long he lasted. Monet, arch-Impressionist – it was his *Impression: Sunrise* of 1872 that first inspired the name – lived on through Symbolism, Fauvism, Cubism, Futurism, Dadaism even. He died in 1926, aged 93. A third of his painting life fell in our century. Whether, by the end, his work can still be called impressionist, whether it should really be called visionary or indeed abstract, are not entirely stupid or anachronistic questions. Contemporary critics asked them, and anyone may well wonder. Incidentally, it's not (as people used to think) just a matter of Monet having bad eye trouble.

Fast forward the video; that's usually good advice for any blockbuster; and it is here. Don't waste your feet or eyes, your bargaining or head-dodging skills too much on the earlier rooms, where everyone always gets clogged. Proceed, fairly directly, past the first garden scenes, past the many views of Charing Cross Bridge and the several views of the Houses of Parliament. They've got their points. I know, and it's nice that Monet was a lover of our London fogs, but there's much intensive viewing ahead. Keep moving, until you hit ponds.

I mean, specifically, not the pretty, delicate, circular and rather 19th-century-looking water-lily pictures, but those in the next room, the more graphic and lurid ones, that somewhat suggest Edvard Munch. It's true we've just skipped almost half the show,

but since almost the whole point of it is the last works, and since these lily pictures are first drafts for those infinite visions, they're a good start. They're in fact very clever (maybe not a word you'd associate with Monet). They perform an ingenious formal metamorphosis. A lot of it's in the cropping.

There's no bank in view. The pictures are all water, what's floating on it and what's reflected in it. And what's reflected is as boldly marked as what floats. Consequently they divide clearly into two flat, superimposed layers. It was 1907; no Western painting had done this before. The top layer is the water-lilies grouped in isolated flotillas on the pond's surface. The layer behind is the upside-down reflection of two shadowy treetops, with a brighter sky showing between and above (ie below) them. OK.

Now consider those lilies: where have you seen that formation of shapes before in paintings? In cloud studies, most obviously, with groups of strato-cumulus floating in a sky. And the upside-down trees-against-sky reflection: what does that configuration of light and dark look like? Chiefly, pictures of widening river-mouths, or rising springs, or waterfalls dropping into a pool. So between the two layers, image and shape change places. The water surface becomes open sky. The reflected sky becomes flowing water (as it were, a stream within a pond). Very neat, if quite subliminal, punning; but it's the basis of the last works' deep spatial uncertainties.

Then it's the Venice pictures, which Monet himself thought a bit chocolate-boxy. Then his wife died, and he painted little for a couple of years. Then it's 1914, and suddenly he's painting on a much larger scale, and the brushwork gets magnified and emboldened with it. Here you find the first Monet painting where it's natural to ask: what's that meant to be? Monet probably wouldn't have considered *Water-lilies*, *Reflections of Weeping Willows* (1916-19) a finished work. His taste was nearer than ours. But the point is, the space is starting to waver, the two layers – surface and reflection – merge in an overall milky-purple haze, mainly differentiated by rhythm and direction of brushstroke.

The most visionary images follow, ground-level views of the Rose Garden, and the Japanese Bridge with its overgrown canopy, where foliage burns in knotty, fireball configurations of really thick paint, and the colours are frankly of the wall. A couple of these pictures may indeed register a disturbance in Monet's colour vision, due to cataract trouble. But he knew the colours of the world and he paints well enough for this still to be a doubtful explanation.

And now I'm hurrying to the *Grandes Décorations* in the last room, the giant lily-pond panoramas, two metres high, as much as six metres wide. Monet here develops this single motif into a space that's not abstract, but that resumes the whole of nature, with all nature's modes and elements in its repertoire. It can do boiling sunsets, hush meadow, dense mists, swelling ocean, pouring rain, the seabed. These amazing vistas disorient and dis-

solve between surface, depth, distance, atmosphere, flux, suspension, void. They put the viewer on the spot.

If you imagine what viewing conditions the pictures demand, you see how odd they are. Size-wise, they look like public art, made to adorn a space with big walls, the sort of space you couldn't hope to have to yourself. But on the other hand, they're not for public viewing at all, not for sharing, or having an interesting discussion about in front of. The point of their size is the total immersion of the single viewer. There's this enormous panorama – for your eyes only. Think of mad King Ludwig having a full-dress performance of *Lohengrin* staged for him alone, an audience of one: that's about the size of the anomaly.

It might be simpler to say cinema. In the cinema, all audiences are audiences of ones. And when you enter the room, and see facing you the marvellous *Water-lily Pond* from New York, you may not think it, but your body knows at once what you're looking at a wide screen. And as with a big movie, the impact is both overpowering and empowering. The vision is all yours to lose yourself in. But unlike a cinema, these paintings have only one true viewpoint – centre – in front of where the real depths sink in, with the encompassing vista balanced either side of you, and the pictures have to be hung at eye-level. You probably want to walk to and fro, approaching the canvas, backing off. But you don't want company, you want communion. There's no business so self-centred as self-loss.

Monet, of course, had bigger ideas about encompassing the viewer, and they're partly realised at the Orangerie in Paris. Personally, I've never thought this attempt at surround-vision really worked. Therefore I'm against the RA's imitating it, by putting its five panoramas all round the walls of a single, relatively small room. They need, ideally, one-to-one viewing. They need realistically as much space as possible, say a room each. (And I'm sorry to say the RA has actually taken three rooms out of circulation, for sponsors' parties.)

The experience, if you can get it, is the meaning. They're not about anything. I've made it sound rather spiritual, and that's all right if you see that with this art, the analogy can go either way – with the spiritual perhaps only a metaphor for the sensory. Or no distinction need be made. Monet once said he wanted a buoy for his coffin, to bob on the sea-surface eternally. But perhaps a better image for how the viewer is involved is the Buddhist idea of breaking the bottle, blending the water it contains with the ocean it's floating in.

Though I suppose, by the time you've squeezed your way through to the last room of "Monet in the 20th Century", you'll already know that feeling pretty well.

"Monet in the 20th Century", Royal Academy, Piccadilly, London W1; every day, to 18 April; admission £9, concessions £6, 0171-300 8000

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INSIDE

Letters	2	Science	9
Leaders and comment	3-5	Architecture & Design	10
Obituaries	6-7	Arts	11
Features	8	Music	12-14

Listings	15-16
Radio	17
Satellite TV	17
Today's TV	18

MUSIC

## 2/COMMENT AND LETTERS

## Banana battles

Sir: Deborah Orr ("Don't bend to the Americans", 15 January) asserts that the banana dispute has united the European Union. I wish that that were the case.

There are remaining tensions between member states which want to buy bananas from our traditional suppliers and others which would prefer to open up the market and improve access for dollar bananas from Latin American countries.

The EU has for many years supported our traditional suppliers in the Caribbean by offering terms of trade which give them the chance to prosper through their own efforts rather than someone else's aid. US banana companies, in particular Chiquita, are determined to threaten a system which presents no threat to them but, if removed, would destroy small banana farmers in the Caribbean.

The World Trade Organisation ruled against the European Union's banana regime some months ago and so a new system was devised. However, the US maintains that the new regime is still incompatible with the rules and has invoked article 301 of the US Trade Act, which provides for unilateral action.

In the meantime we continue to wait for a ruling on the new regime from the WTO. If the worst happens and the EU fails what will Bill Clinton do? Is he proposing a massive aid package to assist efforts to diversify and maintain economic stability? Should we wait to see the banana industry disappear and then work out how to deal with the resulting disaster?

GLENYS KINNOCK (MEP)

(South Wales East, Labour)

Brussels

Sir: At least one newspaper in the UK is less than enthusiastic about the hegemonic shenanigans of the Americans.

The German market for bananas, now much the largest in the EU, is however almost entirely for dollar bananas, due, as Deborah Orr says, to the protocol to the treaty of Rome, signed by Germany in 1957. Adenauer wanted to avoid it. But the Americans exercised maximum pressure and he had to yield.

There was thus established in Germany a taste for these bananas, strengthened by the addition of East Germany in 1989. But it is not high time that the wiles was blown?

Germans who have had the chance to sample other sorts of bananas are enthusiastic about them; more especially since information campaigns have revealed the inhuman conditions in which dollar bananas are harvested, chemically treated and made uniform.

Professor DR JOSEF

ELFENBEIN

Mainz, Germany

## Peer pressure

Sir: Confronted by the pitfalls of Lords reform, the Government seeks a time-honoured escape route – appointment of a Royal Commission. We could find ourselves saddled with a debased and supine Commons, dominated by an overweening executive, with an ersatz upper house attempting to acquire the风采 of its predecessor.

The alternative is to follow the precedent set by Sweden and Denmark since 1945, and New Zealand since 1950, by abolishing the upper house. This would require introduction of direct democracy as an essential constitutional initiative to provide oversight on the legislature and the right of veto on constitutional change. And at the heart of direct democracy lies the referendum.

As the jurist A V Dicey opined, the referendum gives "formal acknowledgement of the doctrine which lies at the basis of English democracy – that law depends at bottom for its enactment on the consent of the nation as represented by the electors". In a unicameral parliament, those entrusted with deliberating on



Tough Guys No 5: Mud and guts on display in the annual Tough Guys race in Staffordshire

Kalpesh Lathigra

national affairs will be aware that their deliberations are on sufferance to the electorate, representing the ultimate authority of a working democracy.

GEOFFREY WG MUNNERY

The Referenda Society

Newark, Nottinghamshire

Sir: The words "abolish the hereditary peers" are much used. The hereditary peers are not being abolished, only their right to sit, speak and vote in the upper house.

The peers will simply return to their country estates and continue to throw a much-needed splash of somewhat eccentric colour on our social tapestry.

MICHAEL WRIST-KNUDSEN

Ely, Cambridgeshire

Sir: Can anyone explain why anything other than a completely elected replacement for the House of Lords is even an option for consideration?

PELHAM BARTON

Birmingham

## High cost of health

Sir: M C Fitzpatrick (letter, 18 January) refers to the accountancy argument between Labour and the Conservatives as to who made the bigger annual percentage increase in the NHS budget. This sterile argument enables politicians of both parties to deflect us away from the real debate.

It is time that Labour (and the Conservatives) were asked how they explain the differences in healthcare spending per head of population between the UK at £779 per year as compared with Italy (£941), France (£1,222), and Germany (£1,331)?

If this enormous discrepancy is not to be made up through general taxation, when will the politicians consider some other system of funding – perhaps along the lines of the German model of a range of health insurance schemes whose premiums are set by central government?

Dr GERALD de LACEY

London W11

Sir: Of course there is rationing in the Health Service (leading article, 19 January). From waiting lists – whether for operations, outpatients, ancillary services or even primary care – to rationing of drugs (Viagra, interferon or whatever), it must be obvious to anyone with a grain of common sense.

Why, then, can it not be openly admitted to? We supposedly live in a democratic society. If the population want a fully-funded health service, let it be voted for with all the facts and expenses laid on the table, not hidden behind the mask of political rhetoric or surreptitiously devolved to local Primary Care Groups for them to shoulder the burden of responsibility.

Dr N J MORISON

Cheltenham, Gloucestershire

Sir: A great deal of comment has appeared in your columns on the ailments affecting the NHS over the Christmas period. Some have suggested that GPs and GP co-operatives were responsible for increased admission rates to hospitals. Some even blamed patients for being "wimpy".

Between Christmas Day and the end of New Year's Day 1997, our GP co-operative, which supports out-of-hours care in Northumberland and north

Sir: I was intrigued to read that Jonathan Aitken once likened himself to a young meteor. A meteor, after all, is an object which burns away to nothing as it crashes to earth.

JONATHAN WALLACE

Newcastle upon Tyne

Sir: With all those who regard perjury by the President of the United States of America as a mere peccadillo apply the standard to Jonathan Aitken?

DAVID TEVANS

Southport, Merseyside

Sir: What a strange situation.

News at Ten last night (19

Durham, handled 3,772 calls. During the same period last month, partly because of flu and a meningitis scare, the number was 3,492. Despite this increase in call volume, our hospital referral rate fell to 5.25 per cent and we managed, through having extra doctors and staff working to sustain our normal high-quality response times.

We have an ageing population. Expectations are rising ahead of investment in healthcare; continued NHS modernisation and increased investment are essential or crises are inevitable.

Dr KEVIN MCKENNA

Medical Director

Northern Doctors Urgent Care

Ashington, Northumberland

Sir: As an emergency case who as just spent five days in Shrewsbury Hospital as a National Health Service patient I can tell you the attention I received was extraordinarily courteous, caring, cheerful and professional, and all of this while under considerable and relentless pressure. If we want to keep this extraordinary service intact this windbag government needs to pay our nurses more, now.

TIM CRAIG

Oswestry,

Shropshire

Sir: Your most punctual of readers will know that Greenwich, specifically

## Graceful exit

Sir: I hope Paddy Ashdown's graceful, indeed fragrant, resignation from party leadership and Parliament will not lead journalists to a rash of "nothing became him like his end", as though he were a Richard III, or Sidney Carton.

What does become Paddy Ashdown is the 11 years of endless goodwill he has shown in the difficult role of leader of the smallest of the main parties. We are losing a fresh face, an attractive and worthwhile political agenda, and a very good human being from our most public forum.

I do not for a minute believe the wider world has lost.

Instead of bumping into him only on an Alpine ski slope on one of his and Jane's hurried escapes from Archie Kirkwood back to find me I now expect to bump into him in the Balkans, in Sierra Leone, in Afghanistan, in Algeria, in Sudan, in Sri Lanka – indeed, everywhere his and Jane Ashdown's talents can be brought into play to construct dialogue, pursue the good path, and bring people together for the common good.

NICHOLAS TRESILIAN

London W1

Sir: By the early 1960s, Dadie Rylands declamatory style as a Cambridge University lecturer had ceased to be fashionable (Obituary, 20 January). As an undergraduate actor with the Marlowe Society, which he had so famously founded, I decided out of a mixture of curiosity and respect to attend one of his lectures.

Arriving five minutes late, I saw through the glass roundel in the lecture-theatre door that the great man was already in full spate. I opened the door and entered an otherwise completely empty room.

Though there had been no students to address, Dr Rylands, a professional to the last, had started his lecture on time and was already five minutes into his argument when I arrived. He continued to thunder quotations from Shakespeare at full voice to me, his only listener, till exactly five minutes to the hour when he gathered up his notes, nodded to the room in general, and made his exit.

DR SALAH EZZ

Cairo

No champagne here

Sir: Ken Livingstone ("A toast to champagne socialists", 20 January) misses the point.

As one who managed quite well, in nine years in Parliament, to live on the average skilled worker's wage, I enjoyed life, including "a glass of wine", and sometimes, Ken, even with cheese! But I enjoyed it to the same extent as the Coventry people I represented them (and again, now do) – no more, no less. I've always lived in the area I represent, shopped in the same shops, paid the same bills, and enjoyed the same holidays as the people who sent me to Westminster.

I did that not because I prefer a "hard shirt" but because living on an average wage is the best way to prevent the almost inevitable absorption of an Establishment outlook which parliamentary lifestyle is designed to produce, neutering any radical, socialist feelings MPs once might have had. A casual glance at the Cabinet proves the point.

We will always have Labour

representatives coming under the sway of big business unless they have the lifestyle of ordinary Labour voters. As the Clydebank hero and Marxist of 30 years ago, John McLean, famously said: "Rise with your class, not out of it."

Councillor DAVE NELLIST

Coventry

Free World Service

Sir: Citizens of other countries value the BBC World Service more than we do ("Foolish BBC accused of destroying World Service", 19 January).

The Communist coup in

Portugal some years ago was preceded by an attempted coup, with firing at night. In the morning, I asked a colleague in Lisbon for the news. He replied: "The local news service had government propaganda, so I tuned into the BBC World Service, for their local correspondent." That colleague was Dutch and his views were echoed by all the Portuguese I met that day.

We should be spending more,

not less. This priceless asset should be released from financial dependency on the Foreign Office, which has its own agenda.

W R HAINES

Copthorne, Cheshire

Vote for your favourite war in this last year of the century

on what they think is the foremost fashion accessory of the last 100 years, and informed sources say

that lipstick and eyeliner are way out ahead so far, but that there is still time for compact and powder puff to make a comeback.

Disease of the Millennium

The Lancet, the BMJ and several other medical mags are combining to vote for the disease which, in the opinion of doctors, has most successfully resisted efforts to cure it.

One might think that AIDS would be the front runner, but by medical standards this is apparently still a pretty untried ailment.

"If we find a cure in the next few years, AIDS

will be seen not to have the staying power of something like TB, or malaria," says one of the organisers.

"Don't forget the common

cold, or syphilis, or even pneumonia.

I think you'll find they'll pick up

votes quicker than AIDS will."

Cliché of the Century

The Oxford University Press have quietly been canvassing experts for what they consider to be the most over-used expressions in English in the last 100 years. "We would like to have made it Cliché of the Millennium," says a spokesman, "but we can only measure these things since records began. Since records began' is one of our favourite clichés, incidentally..."

Other clichés fighting for the top spot are "best thing since sliced bread," "the new rock'n'roll" and "Don't mind if I do".

More Polls of the Millennium

coming soon!

## Kosovo stalemate

Sir: In response to the massacres in Kosovo you have joined the predictable chorus demanding intervention in the name of justice (Leading article, 20 January).

The shocking images obviously stimulate a desire to do something but where does this lead us? We will never solve this conflict with force, whether this takes the form of air power or the introduction of ground troops.

The only answer in the long term is to facilitate the replacement of Milosevic and ultimately the establishment of democracy in Serbia. The status of Kosovo will be an intractable dilemma, for Kosovo implemented, enforced and maintained by Western power will store up more conflict in the future. DAVID JOHNSON Sandycroft, Staffordshire

Sir: William Burns questions the contrasting ways the West is dealing with the tyrannies of Saddam Hussein and Slobodan Milosevic (letter, 20 January). Well, I am prepared to stick my neck out and state the obvious: Saddam is a Muslim and Stob is not.

MERHMET CENKTAŞ London N21

Sir: I agree that the only solution to stop the killing of civilians in Kosovo is for "negotiations to be forced by a stalemate" (leading article, 20 January).

However, your idea of a stalemate being imposed by ground troops "securing the separation of combatants" is unlikely to materialise; in both Bosnia and Iraq, no country was willing to contribute such troops. A stalemate in Kosovo may instead be achieved by balancing the military forces of the combatants. This can be done by pursuing a "degrade and diminish" policy similar to the one applied against Iraq last month.

An unrelenting campaign, via Western air power, against the Serbs' military machine, ammunition depots and weapons industry can degrade Milosevic's capacity for raiding villages and perpetrating further massacres. DR SALAH EZZ Cairo

## No champagne here

Sir: Ken Livingstone ("A toast to champagne socialists", 20 January) misses the point.

As one who managed quite well, in nine years in Parliament, to live on the average skilled worker's wage, I enjoyed life, including "a glass of wine", and sometimes, Ken, even with cheese! But I enjoyed it to the same extent as the Coventry people I represented them (and again, now do) – no more, no less. I've always lived in the area I represent, shopped in the same shops, paid the same bills, and enjoyed the same holidays as the people who sent me to Westminster.

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Councillor DAVE NELLIST

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## True public service means giving time as well as money

**THE DECLINE** in charitable giving, both of time and money, is not just a technical phenomenon, another pernicious side effect of the National Lottery – although it is that too. It goes to the soft centre of the Prime Minister's Third Way. Philanthropic donations and voluntary work are central to any meaningful notion of "community", as Tony Blair acknowledged yesterday. In a thoughtful speech to the National Council of Voluntary Organisations, he criticised the cynical view that the only thing that motivates people is the desire to acquire power, wealth and material possessions for themselves. "If everyone shared that first-past-the-post, me, my, mine philosophy, then there really would be no such thing as society." This is but the latest echo of one of Margaret Thatcher's most famous formulations. And yet the point she was trying to make in that famous *Woman's Own* interview was much closer to Mr Blair's thinking than either of them might admit, because the decline in the idea of community service goes rather deeper than the "me and mine" philosophy of the yuppie Eighties. It has also been undermined by the idea that many welfare functions are the responsibility of the state. Mrs Thatcher was railing against the idea that if people failed to bring up children properly or turned to crime, it was "all the fault of society". She was appealing, like Mr Blair, for a restoration of a sense of individual duty towards others.

Where this present Prime Minister has a potential advantage over his predecessor is that her philosophy, with its simplistic reliance on the notion that people pursue only their economic self-interest, offered no explanation as to why they should give money away or work for free – "no such thing as altruism", as she might have said.

Mr Blair, on the other hand, has always espoused a political vision which recognises that people fulfil themselves in their relations with others, and that individual success is unsatisfying unless it is accompanied by a sense of belonging to a successful community.

However, the trend away from charitable giving and voluntary work is not going to be reversed unless the Government changes the incentives that influence human behaviour and tries to change our national culture. That means American-style tax breaks for charitable giving – to accompany the overhaul of the legal definition of charitable objects that is currently under way. And it means changes in the tax system, beyond the current give-as-you-earn and bequest schemes, to encourage people to devote more time to voluntary work and public service. Employers should have more incentives to employ more people, more part-time and flexible workers, rather than simply to work existing staff for longer hours.

These incentives should both encourage and reinforce



cultural changes, in which both the Government and the NCVO should take leading roles. We need to get away from a situation in which it is easier to raise money for guide dogs for the blind than it is to raise money to help blind people more generally. This reflects the fundraiser's dilemma, which is that it is always easier to raise money for specific causes that make a measurable, short-term difference. That again, of course, reflects too narrow a view of charity, as an obligation that is discharged simply by giving money. The Prime Minister was right yesterday to call for a broader notion of public service, which involves giving time as well as money. "A fully employed society," he said, "is one where everyone contributes all their talents through the things they do – paid or unpaid – in the service of others. A society in which, when people ask you, 'What do you do?,' it's not just your job that you mention."

It is a fine ideal, a fitting softening of the stridency of "no such thing as society". But it will require consistent action from the Government to turn it into reality.

## Flying in the face of the free market

**THERE ARE**, sadly, many candidates for the title of "most fixed market in Britain". Agriculture springs to mind, as does the new car trade. But, in terms of its stubbornness and bluntness, air travel has always been a prime contender for the award. Fresh revelations about the behaviour of our leading airline may just have clinched it. The wonder is that the relevant competition authorities seem so unable – or unwilling – to do much about it.

The "back-door" fare increases now being planned show that the airlines are still unashamed about fixing artificially high fares. British Airways has always been an aggressive player. But this move is startling in its audacity, even for this company.

To take one small example, if you want to fly from

Heathrow to Jersey, say, you have no choice but to use BA, and from April you will have to pay an extra £7.70 for the trip, supposedly to cover extra tax. But the problems do not end there. Heathrow airport is the most sought after in the world. Every airline on the planet is desperate for "slots" to land here. But the Bermuda Agreements that have governed Anglo-American air travel since the Forties limit the airlines that can fly transatlantic from Heathrow to just two on each side: BA and Virgin from the UK, American and United from the US. Cities such as Las Vegas are crying out for direct links from London, and many airlines are keen to serve it, but the bilateral agreement does not allow new entrants. Any new slots that do become available are usually carved up. This stymies competition and innovation.

By most standards, we enjoy a relatively deregulated market. But the big players have too much power. Passengers get a raw deal. If the Government and the European Commission fail to act, we'll know who really rules the skies.

# As Mr Ashdown quits, will his party disappear into oblivion?



**STEVE RICHARDS**

*His vision is dependent on electoral reform, but the momentum towards such reform has stopped*

Indeed, much time is wasted during election campaigns speculating on what might happen in a hung parliament, when there has been only one since the Second World War, in February 1974. Yet such an unlikely scenario was Ashdown's only hope of a coalition in 1997, and would be if he had clung on until the next election.

In my view, electoral reform is less likely now than it has been for many years. Last November, the Jenkins Report had the potential to make great historical waves. It did not, instead, the elegant words were the equivalent of pebbles causing a few ripples before being brushed aside by a much bigger gust from a different direction. In Labour's ranks, the first-past-the-posters are smiling, looking forward to further vindication when PR in the Euro elections this summer

loses them more seats than would have been the case otherwise. Even more senior Labour supporters of electoral reform are not especially keen on Jenkins' proposals. "I would support the Alternative vote, but not this messy compromise", is a common reaction. The momentum towards electoral reform has gone into reverse.

This, combined with the related factor of Blair's continuing equivocation on the issue, will encourage the tribal instincts of the Lab Dems. Such instincts are far greater than those in the souls of many Labour traditionalists, as anyone who attends their party conferences will testify.

I remember reporting their 1992 conference in Harrogate, following the Tories' fourth election win in a row. Before the conference, Ashdown had raised, very tentatively, the prospect of co-operating with other parties in the light of the Conservatives' apparent invincibility. Activist after activist stood up to declare their horror at such a prospect, insisting that the party's national objective should be to form the next government. It was the same sort of horror expressed by some of them when the joint Cabinet committee was formed.

Too many Liberal Democrats manage to combine self-righteousness and naivete in equal measure. It is a miracle Ashdown has taken them as far as he has.

It is quite possible that they will pick a leader now who will take them to the promised land of indignation importance. Such a strategy would be a big mistake. A senior cabinet minister, one of those rare figures in Blair's

### QUOTE OF THE DAY

"You have to pray daily, light a candle – get down on your knees – as far as the prisons are concerned."

Jack Straw,  
Home Secretary

### THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"It is easier to forgive an enemy than to forgive a friend."

William Blake,  
British poet

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## MONITOR

ALL THE NEWS OF THE WORLD

French opinion on the massacre of Kosovans at Racak by the Serbian security forces

THE INTERNATIONALISATION of the Kosovar problem was a chance for the Serbs. The observers deployed should have enabled the suspension of combat and a climate essential to

the construction of a solution to the Kosovar problem. That chance has been compromised. Will we ever save the Serbian nation from its own demons? *Le Figaro*

of soldiers who lost control? Or perhaps simply the cold-blooded execution of civilians? Should we want to sway opinion in the direction of the last suggestion, was the Kosovar Liberation Army on the scene? Since the massacre the media has attempted in all honesty to reply to these questions. Was the massacre premeditated, or was it precipitated on the ground? The bizarre nature of its chronology and contradictory witness statements have fanned the flames of suspicion. But in this filthy war over Kosovo, either hypothesis would make sense. The Serbian forces have never distinguished themselves with a respect for the Geneva convention and have always been ready to organise a civilian massacre to terrify the Albanians. But the KLA, organisation of steel, is also well able to "arrange" truth to sway international opinion. *Liberation*

WHAT REALLY happened last week at Racak, where 45 people were found dead? Albanian witnesses claim it was a cold-blooded massacre of unarmed civilians. The Serbs affirm that the victims were KLA militants. Only an international inquiry, above all suspicion, will resolve this puzzle. The problem though is that the Belgrade authorities have not even once shown themselves as being co-operative in this affair. But why not? Whatever

the conclusions drawn by those leading investigations into this matter, the Racak massacre reveals that the hope of having reached a satisfactory arrangement regarding the Kosovar crisis was an illusory one. *Le Monde*

THE INTERNATIONALISATION of the Kosovar problem was a chance for the Serbs. The observers deployed should have enabled the suspension of combat and a climate essential to



# Modern life on a plate



**DEBORAH ORR**  
Politicians are all eating wood-smoked duck in public and ready-made lasagne in private

DO YOU ever worry, as you sit of an evening with your microwave meal resting on your copy of *The Sugar Club Cookbook*, watching Rick Stein's *Seafood Odyssey*, that you're letting yourself down?

Do you ever feel that while you've bought radicchio perhaps half-a-dozen times since you first heard of it in the late Eighties, it could be a personal failing that each time you've managed to get some home from the supermarket, it has eventually (actually shockingly quickly) turned to slime in the "crisper" compartment of your fridge?

Does it ever bother you that although you'd like the children to eat more healthily, à la Nigella Lawson (bless her), that in the end it feels better to serve them frozen pizza, which they eat, instead of fresh vegetable crostini, which they don't?

If you've answered yes to these three questions, then welcome. You are a fully paid up member of the Nineties aspirational-lifestyle-con club, perching right on the knife-edge of our confusions about public and private lives, and you are a person who has many, many friends.

Imagine you'd left Britain 20 years ago. You said goodbye to a country in which roast beef with Yorkshire pudding was the internationally scorned but much-loved family meal on a Sunday, where the occasional meal out meant prawn cocktail Marie Rose, steak and chips, then Black Forest gateau, and where a greengrocer's offering apples, oranges, pears, grapes and bananas all at the same time was considered to be the *dernier cri*.

Now imagine you've just come back here. Everything is different, as a trip to Sainsbury's to pick up some satsuma, a plantain or two and a packet of Chinese gooseberries will immediately confirm. Judging by the recipe books groaning on the kitchen shelves of all your chums, you could be in for seared fresh tuna for Sunday dinner, although even that doesn't quite hit the mark because your hosts are the lucky winners of yet another eat-for-80-at-a-tender offer at the Conran restaurant of your choice.

Open any Saturday or Sunday newspaper, and you will find large tranches of full-colour newsprint dedicated to bringing you stories of



The aspirational face of British eating - chefs Ruth Rogers and Rose Gray at work at the River Café in Hammersmith, west London

David Rose

the latest antics of the latest celebrity chefs, printing their recipes, previewing their television programmes, reviewing their restaurants and detailing their cooking implements and kitchen layouts. If that's not enough for you, then take your pick of luscious, glossy periodicals dedicated to food and drink.

Now, you could be forgiven for imagining that this may just mean something, the something being that Britons are cooking more, eating better, and leading healthier lives. That would be an understandable though silly assumption.

That would suggest that consumers consumed, when actually consumers simply purchase.

It's been 20 years since the French philosopher Guy de Bord predicted the "society of the spectacle", in which people would become observers of a world summoned up by the media, but it's certainly well and truly with us now. And the single example of our fractured, voyeuristic relationship with ourselves that says more than any other is the example set by the golf of the food we aspire to and the food we eat.

This week's Mintel British Lifestyles 1999 Survey informed us

yet again that the biggest growth in food spending was in the convenience foods sector - which now accounts for 23 per cent of all the food we eat - while our overall spending on food to eat in the home has declined. Some of this, you may be given for assuming, is because we're all eating out a great deal more. But actually, only around a fifth of us hit a restaurant twice a week or more, while another fifth eat out "only occasionally".

As for cooking, fewer and fewer people are doing it with large swathes of the population considering reheating a packet of frozen chicken Kievs actually to be cooking. As for the traditional Sunday dinner, it's now a tradition that fewer and fewer of us observe.

While some of the burgeoning army of food celebrities, led by Delia Smith with her latest offering, *How To Cook*, are attempting to address this very basic lack of knowledge and skill, some arresting sales of specialist pans doesn't necessarily mean that we're getting back in the kitchen. These sales, like the sales of the books themselves, are indications only of our heartfells - but somehow thwarted desire to do so.

And far from living healthier

lifestyles, we are becoming less healthy at a quite alarming rate. Obesity and digestive difficulties plague us, while our children have become so sedentary and so addicted to junk food that even though we actually eat less than we used to, we weigh more.

Across the board our fat to muscle ratio is moving ever towards lardiness, bringing with it the astonishing fact that our children will grow up with the lowest life expectancy in living memory. And if the fat doesn't get them then the food itself might, for food poisoning of every kind is on the increase. Even more depressing, in Britain today more than four million children are estimated to be suffering from malnutrition.

But this isn't simply a rerun of the old situation in which a cultural élite's living habits gain huge, unchallenged currency. Certainly there are some privileged "foodies" around who really live in the River Café society, they, like General Pinochet and Tony Blair, but there are plenty of ordinary people who ardently aspire to it.

All of the major soap operas now have their local restaurant as well as their local pub. Even in the land that time forgot, *Coronation Street*, Natalie is introducing ciabatta and deep-fried potato-skins to the Rover's Return, in an as-yet unheard of challenge to the ancient hegemony of Betty Turpin's hotpot. Across the road Roy's Rolls is in the midst of a makeover which will make it Weatherfield's answer to the River Café itself.

The truth is that British eating habits have developed a sophisticated and aspirational public face, while in private we cling to comfort and convenience. An unsympathetic critic might encapsulate this phenomenon within the dread phrase "style over substance", but this is too glib and rather underplays the significance of our schizophrenic attitudes to our public and private lives, and not only as far as food is concerned.

Our obsession with this new wave of fancy foodism began in the Eighties along with yuppies and property-owning democracies. It was initially distrusted and satirised, particularly by the left, as being a symptom of that greedy decade. But this new decade, the Nineties, far from developing its own discrete character, has been marked by the process of normalisation whereby the excesses of one decade have become the facts of life

in the next. And if the personal is political, then food and power are inextricably entwined.

So it's perfectly fitting that the seal was set on the New Labour leadership with a dinner at the fashionable Islington restaurant Granita, while its greatest crisis was precipitated by a man who wished to project a certain lifestyle but didn't want anyone to know he couldn't pay for it.

If only this was merely a matter of style over substance. Instead it's a question of public affluence masking private poverty. Which is why politicians are so keen to protect their privacy while seeing no contradiction in wishing to project their image and why they no longer seem able to judge what behaviour is appropriate for public life. They're all eating wood-smoked duck in public and ready-made lasagne (the most popular chilled meal in Britain) in private.

We really are what we eat. And what we are is sophisticated, aspirational, poised and capable in public; overstretched, confused, tired and unable to meet our commitments at home. Let's hope that Delia can tell us *How To Cook* as quickly as she can, and then that Nigella can tell us *How To Eat*.

## RIGHT OF REPLY

**NATHANIEL KEKANA**

A member of the South African Parliament responds to Fergal Keane's recent article on township life

CYNTHIA MATHEBE'S story is testimony to the courage and patience of millions of South Africans, as well as to the vicious historical legacy that the first democratically elected government is charged with transforming.

But life has changed for millions of South Africans. Cynthia is now a citizen of her country. Her children receive free medical care and a nourishing meal at school. In the foreseeable future she will receive a serviced site and a subsidy to build a brick dwelling.

For citizens of developed countries it is hard to imagine the hardship that most South Africans experience daily. That tap, referred to so lightly in Fergal Keane's article, represents a major change in the lives of millions of our people. Without running water, South African women spent up to six hours a day collecting water. Government recently announced the country's three-millionth water services.

Over 400,000 people per year are receiving electricity for the first time. A thousand houses are built daily. By the end of this year government will have provided housing for 850,000 households.

But transformation is not just about houses and taps. Cynthia's domestic worker daughter is, for the first time, protected by law against exploitation. She cannot be fired arbitrarily, she cannot be forced to work on Sundays without extra compensation, and she enjoys basic workers' rights. Cynthia cannot be evicted from the land she occupies without due process and, for the first time, enjoys basic human rights that in developed countries are taken for granted.

Would that government could wave a wand and eradicate poverty and its evils. But our government is committed to fiscal discipline, a discipline that has paid dividends by ensuring that our economy has weathered the global melt-down of markets better than any other developing economy. The ANC-led government is committed to the needs of the many, not the few.

# Portrait of the artist as a critic

## FRIDAY BOOKS

THE CULTURAL TURN: SELECTED WRITINGS ON THE POSTMODERN, 1983-1998  
BY FREDERIC JAMESON, VERSO, £11

THE ORIGINS OF POSTMODERNITY  
BY PERRY ANDERSON, VERSO, £11

FIFTEEN YEARS ago, when the American critic and theorist Fredric Jameson delivered a benchmark lecture on postmodernism, the term was "not widely accepted or even understood". Ten years ago, it was intimidatingly modish. Now, it seems almost quaint. Still, the appearance of books by players of the stature of Jameson and Perry Anderson quickly rouses one from the slumber induced by years of second-rate discourse-speak.

"Commentary," according to Jameson, "makes up the special field of post-modern linguistic practice" - even in the absence of "the sacred text" - the essential work that usually generates commentary. Into this vacuum whooshed Jameson's book *Postmodernism: or the cultural logic of late capitalism*, in which he made this de-

claration. Effectively, this pioneering work was a commentary on its own existence, or at least on how the author's thought had evolved. The essays Jameson has collected in *The Cultural Turn* are further addenda to his *magnum opus*.

Perry Anderson's little book *The Origins of Postmodernity* was initially intended as an introduction to *The Cultural Turn*, but then it outgrew its brief. Within Anderson's own formidable work as a historian and cultural theorist, it takes its place as the final volume in a trilogy, after *Considerations on Western Marxism* and *In the Tracks of Historical Materialism*. In them, exactly as prescribed by Jameson, the task of commentary is raised to the level of primary intellectual exploration.

Since Jameson is the central figure in Anderson's book, it is also the latest instance of the sustained grappling with writers or thinkers that feature in his magisterial collection of essays, *A Zone of Engagement*. In the past, "an element of resistance" was always an ingredient in Anderson's impulse to write about someone. Here, however, he lacks "the safety of sufficient distance".

Before celebrating Jameson's achievement, Anderson takes us through the genealogy of the idea of the postmodern. He displays the same breadth and depth of learning as he did in working through the background to Fukuyama's influential con-

cept of the "end of history". Anderson locates the first usage of "postmodern" in the Hispanic world of the 1930s. Arnold Toynbee and Charles Olson also used the term in the 1950s, but it is not until Jean-François Lyotard's book's *The Postmodern Condition* (1979) that we get a sense of postmodernity as a general change of human circumstance.

The foreword to the English edition was written by Jameson himself. He went on to make the crucial step of anchoring postmodernism "in objective alterations of the economic order of capital itself". Jameson linked the concept to "the saturation of every pore

of the world in the serum of capital". This fundamental intervention was followed by "a majestic expansion of the postmodern across virtually the whole spectrum of the arts". It is this totalising ambition, I guess, that has led Anderson to write about someone without his usual feeling of "significat dissent".

Does this absence mean that the book lacks some of his customary bite? Anderson's lack of resistance certainly exacerbates the reader's. My local objections generate more general ones. "Is there any contemporary critic with an even distantly comparable range?" he asks, of Jameson. Of course

there is: John Berger. How come Anderson has never got to grips with him? Having quoted Jameson's observation that, of the thinkers of Western Marxism, Theodor Adorno "was the supreme stylist", Anderson wonders "whether the description does not better... apply to [Jameson] himself." It might even better apply to Anderson himself. Anderson reckons that Jameson is "a great writer", but it seems to me that Anderson himself is the great writer. Jameson, on the other hand, is trapped in the prison-house of his peculiar idea of virtuosity.

Anderson admires "the spurious rhythms of a complex, yet supple syntax" but the flamboyant baroque of Jameson's prose is an irritating impediment to what is being said. If Jameson's influence is as extensive as Anderson suggests, then he must shoulder much of the blame for the torrent of discursive babble that has fatally contaminated the field. Reading Jameson, I am reminded of those T-shirts on which "Dazed and Confused" is printed, deliberately indistinctly, so that the more sharply you look at them, the more blurred the words become.

Is this just me being stupid? I think not, since Perry Anderson's prose, for me, has always had exactly the "compelling splendour" he finds in Jameson. If the obligation to look up words like "usufuct" or "exordium" is an inherent part of reading Anderson, that is because he is working at the cutting-edge of language. His exacting vocabulary is part and parcel of an impulse to present complex ideas without simplification but with the elegance of absolute clarity. In doing so, he reminds us of the inadequacy of confining the search for great stylists to fiction.

GEORGE DYER



Postmodern paradigm: Coca-Cola in the mosque



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## 6/OBITUARIES

## John Golding

**IN THE** affairs of the Labour Party, there have been men and women who have had less than their share of the headlines, but whose importance in the party has been out of all proportion to their public profile. John Golding was a man of passionate beliefs about furthering the cause of working people. What he believed and whom he supported were matters of the utmost consequence. For two decades he was a really important, if unsung, figure in British politics.

Golding was the self-proclaimed arch scourge of the militant tendency. He relished the role. Dennis Skinner, on being told of Golding's death, reflected: "As a member of right-wing Old Labour, he and I sparred for years on the National Executive Committee. John organised the votes of the Right and I organised the votes of the Left." He added with more than a tinge of affection and admiration: "John knew the rules inside out and he used them to the utmost advantage of the Right."

In 1983 when Golding opposed the Telecommunication Bill he made history by speaking for 11 hours, along with many other filibustering interventions for the purpose of making it as difficult as possible for Mrs Thatcher's government to implement the rip-off privatisation of British Telecom. Few MPs have caused as much trouble in the Parliamentary textbook, *Erskine May*. Golding's activities were responsible for standing order no 29, agreed on 27 February 1986, that a member may rise in his place and move "that the question be now proposed" when a member is in the course of making a motion or moving an amendment at any stage of proceedings on a Bill.

Golding, the supreme tactician, had spotted that he could speak for - proverbially - ever before the Chairman could move "the question now put". The Chairman of this Committee was the eagle-eyed Miss Betty Boothroyd, who whatever her personal exasperation, understood the then rules of Committee better than anybody. She had also served for some years on the National Executive Committee of the Labour Party with Golding, and said of him: His priority was the Labour movement where he spent a lifetime advocating, championing and advancing the cause of democratic socialism. I witnessed the fight he put up and how he expressed his passionate views on behalf of the British telecommunications industry. In addition he was a fine friend to many of us.

John Golding was born of a pottery worker's family, his father later

becoming a chief. After Chester City Grammar School he became a Civil Service clerk, first of all at the local Rivers Board and Fire Brigade and then at the Ministry of Insurance (1948-51). He went to work for the Post Office and soon became involved in the Post Office Engineering Union who, spotting his obvious intelligence and nous, sent him on a TUC scholarship to the London School of Economics.

Later he did a PhD at Keele University where his subject, revealingly, was Thomas Hobbes and the Leviathan. In 1960 he was appointed the Assistant Research Officer of the Post Office Engineering Union, being promoted to Education Officer four years later. He was one of the trade unionists who played an important part in the series of two-way traffic in ideas, the so-called Bonington conferences, which formed the background work to

**Golding was determined to make it his life's work to help young people live in an attractive environment rather than an ugly one**

cause the seat was once represented by the great Josiah Wedgwood. Within weeks of arriving at the House of Commons, he was appointed as Parliamentary Private Secretary to the Minister for Industry, Eric Varley, one of Harold Wilson's closest associates.

Mark Fisher MP for Stoke and thus his Parliamentary neighbour described how "John was a wonderful and much loved constituency MP. He was also a great expert on the Tote on which he did much constructive work."

Golding's causes were numerous. He was one of the first to highlight the problems of derelict land and badger ministers into coming up with a constructive policy for areas which were not only eyesores but health hazards. With his legendary passion for fishing, Golding was appalled by how the countryside had been devastated in the past by industrialisation and was determined to make it his life's work to help young people live in an attractive environment rather than an ugly one. From the mid-Sixties he was one of the first to make his fellow politicians aware of the problems of air pollution.

Another theme which he pursued relentlessly - I admired him for his capacity to be relentless in worthwhile causes - were the evils which arose from low pay. He was one of the first to campaign for a national minimum wage and highlighted this cause as long ago as his maiden speech in November 1966: Employers will not modernise and pay higher wages without being faced with competition, and in such areas as north Staffordshire where there is a great reliance on traditional industries - industries not responsive to change - it is most important that they have new technicalities.

Like many of his colleagues I shall remember Golding for his contributions year after year to the Labour Conference.

In the summer of 1969 Steven Swindler, the Minister for Pensions and MP for Newcastle-under-Lyme, suddenly died and on 30 October John Golding, by 21,766 votes to 20,744, defeated the young Nicholas Winterton, now MP for Macclesfield, in the ensuing by-election. In 1970 Golding defeated Winterton in another hard-fought campaign by 2,106 votes and subsequently held the seat comfortably against Sir Nicholas Bonnor, later a Foreign Office minister.

He was immensely proud of representing Newcastle-under-Lyme both because of his father's connection as a pottery worker and because



Golding campaigning for the seat of Newcastle-under-Lyme at the 1969 by-election; he was MP 1969-86

In 1974 he said to the Labour Conference:

I say this bluntly because experience shows that those individual members without strong union loyalty seem increasingly to prefer those who are trained professional advocates - the lawyers, the lecturers, the teachers, the broadcasters - to those who are manual workers. While we recognise the great contribution that the professional advocate is making in Parliament and in the constituencies we believe that it is still very important that the Parliamentary Labour Party continues to have a strong manual trade union group.

Throughout his political life Golding, with a twinkle in his eye, expressed scepticism about the claims of many professional people who he thought had an exaggerated view of their own contribution to human welfare.

which add to the shock and confusion of bereavement.

At many by-elections, up and down Britain, I went canvassing with Golding. Invariably he carried one of those copybooks with him on which he would write a letter in biro there and then despatching it in an envelope to the relevant official outlining the grievance which had been put to him on the doorstep. On a yellow page he had a copy of what he had written and woe betide anyone who received one of these letters and did nothing about it. He followed up every complaint.

After a period as a Government Whip, Golding was appointed by Jim Callaghan to a ministerial job for which he was supremely suited, that of Parliamentary Secretary at

the Department of Employment. He was particularly concerned about subsidies which had poured millions of pounds away from the public sector into private enterprise. They had helped bring the nationalised industries into dispute with the public and had severely undermined the morale of workers in the nationalised industries themselves.

As a former member of the Select Committee on Nationalised Industries, under the chairmanship of Ian Mikardo, who had a high regard for Golding's energy, drive and knowledge, he had made himself something of an expert on nationalised industries other than that of the Post Office. In the Post Office's union he was a central, if controversial figure in tandem with his friend Bryan

Stanley, the union's long-serving General Secretary.

In all the difficulties which faced Labour following the defeat of the Callaghan government by Mrs Thatcher, Golding played a central role. He remained staunchly loyal to the Labour Party and was genuinely shocked at the actions of Shirley Williams and, as he put it, "others of a gentle upbringing" to leave the Labour Party in 1980-81. He saw Tony Benn, Eric Heffer, and others, as making it impossible to win elections and he was vehemently against supporting Peter Tatchell as the Labour candidate in Bermondsey.

When his own constituency was targeted and taken over by people sympathetic to the militant tendency in 1982-83 he was refused renomination, as a prime target of the Left. Amidst bitterly fought wrangling of enormous complexity he gave up his Parliamentary seat at a moment when he thought, on the assumption that he could return to retiring age to his union as General Secretary.

Arrangements were made that the Newcastle seat should be contested by Lin Golding, formerly Secretary of the Newcastle Labour Party, with whom he had had a warm and loving marriage since 1960, and who was the daughter of Ness Edwards MP, Clement Attlee's Postmaster General and for many years Chairman of the Trade Union Group of Labour MPs.

The last speech I heard him make was on 23 January 1985, appropriately on post office closures. "Our post offices are now more crowded on Thursdays than was the Black Hole of Calcutta, but the talk is not of relief but of further closures. Why should we treat our old people in such a way?"

TAM DALYELL

**John Golding**, post office worker, trade union official and politician; born Birmingham 9 March 1931; Education Officer, Post Office Engineering Union (POEU) 1964-65; MP (Labour) for Newcastle-under-Lyme 1969-86; Opposition Whip 1970-74; Government Whip 1974; Parliamentary Under-Secretary for Employment 1976-79; Chairman, Select Committee on Employment 1979-1982; member of the National Executive Committee of the Labour Party 1978-83; General Secretary, National Communications Union 1986-88; married 1958 Thelma Gwilym (one son, and one son deceased; marriage dissolved), 1980 Lite Lewis (née Edwards); died 26 January 1999.

AHMED POCHÉE was a man injected a fresh spirit of irre and fun into the staid wine trade. The fact that he ne himself, or anyone else, too s was the key both to his success low profile. He was an anti whose the trappings of success little compared to the job he low.

The founder of Oddbins in the 1970s, Pochee was a wheeler-dealer. Right until his death from multiple sclerosis, in his element sniffing out bankrupt stock in railway and the East End and selling them back of his battered blue Merc to the posh wine merchants of

Born in 1938, and brought up, London, to an Indian father and mother, Pochee was an unlike leader in the East Finchley Boy

before he contracted meningitis, studied hotel management and finally failing to finish it at the Street polytechnic before following the culinary footsteps of his who had opened Edinburgh Indian restaurant.

As a sous-chef at Simpson's Strand and then a porter at Aldwych wine merchants, the world of wine and restaurants led him to his subterranean cellar. With his charming cellar and restaurateurs, he was soon tapping into seam of surplus stocks of old-valued wine. Starting to trade parcels and bins of wine, he set up his own business, Oddbins, when with a help of a loan from his brother John Benetti.

At this time, high-street off- were largely in the hands of brewers looking for an outlet brands. Pochee's Oddbins, breezy anarchic style, its knowledg staff and the inevitable music Davis and Nina Simone, star

process of blowing the cobwebs from the old-fashioned off-licence. Thresher launched Wine Rack decades later as a revolution high-street concept. Pochee commented wryly: "That's strange; we're 20 years ago and we didn't call it visionary then."

**BUDDY FEYNE** was not one of Alley's legendary songwriters, a long and varied career, he words to two popular pieces, "Tuxedo Junction" and "Jersey Bounce".

Born Bernard Feinstein in grew up in the tough Spanish section of New York City, and from an early age, to be part of business. While singing with various bands in and around Ne he began writing special material himself and other vocalists, like Buddy Feyne when he met Milton in the 1930s. Feinstein, a Jewish, advised the comedian, himself began life as Berliner.

In 1939 "Tuxedo Junction" produced by Erskine Hawkins band at the Savoy Ballroom, York, and was an immediate hit. It was named after a railroad in Alabama, its instrumental composed by Hawkins and his pianists Bill Johnson and Julia Helped immeasurably by "Dad" Bascomb's muted but s

## Serge Ganjou

**GEORGE ROBEY**, "The Prime Minister of Mirth", Charles Coburn with his "Two Lovely Black Eyes", Marie Lloyd junior as her mother, the original "Ruin That Cromwell Knocked About a Bit", and the eccentric dance trio Wilson, Keppel and Betty in "Cleopatra's Nightmare". These were just some of the veteran variety stars that shone in the film Variety Jubilee, made by the minor company of Butcher's Empire Productions back in 1943.

Shiniest of all on the star-studded bill, certainly the most unique was the act of the Ganjou Brothers and Juanita. They are top of the bill in the film, just as they almost always were on the live variety stage, and today simply take one's breath away by their absolute perfection in a beautifully timed and stunningly perfect 10 minutes of - what should one call it? an acrobatic act? a dance act? a mime act? a strong-man act?

The setting was usually some thing looking like a large and outsize mantelpiece upon which stood a highly decorative clock. The pendulum, played by the beautiful Juanita, petite of form but long of leg, swung to and fro to the music of "The Blue Danube". On came the Ganjou Brothers, a trio clad in powdered

wigs, tights, decorated waistcoats and billowing shirts. Juanita swung down and the three men began to swing her around, about and above their heads, eventually flinging her from one to another across the wide stage, and tossing her over their heads from shoulder to shoulder. Finally they threw her high in the air, spun her round and round, caught her in an upright stance and froze in a pose that brought the house down with applause.

Ganjou was Polish, having been born in Warsaw in 1904, while his brothers Bob and George were born in southern Russia. Children of a poor family, they all worked in a number of jobs whilst travelling from town to town. They were working in Moscow when the Russian Revolution began in 1917.

The setting was usually some thing looking like a large and outsize mantelpiece upon which stood a highly decorative clock. The pendulum, played by the beautiful Juanita, petite of form but long of leg, swung to and fro to the music of "The Blue Danube". On came the Ganjou Brothers, a trio clad in powdered

studies. Between times he entered several local talent contests, winning the prize with his gypsy songs sung to his own guitar. This success prompted him to form a musical quartet with three other winners, and the group was soon making a living by touring the village halls of Poland. Meanwhile Serge's brothers en-

This was Juanita Richards, petite and graceful, who was born in Detroit, Michigan. She mixed her dancing with a ballerina with several American companies with considerable fame as a broadcasting vocalist with more than one radio dance-band. When she had time she also worked as an artist's model. She joined the act in 1931.

The third male member of the original team was William Hendricks from Copenhagen, Denmark. He had emigrated to New York at the age of 13, and won an international Charleston dance championship. Becoming a solo singer and dancer in several South American cabarets, Hendricks had much experience in several different adagio teams before joining the Ganjous.

The original Ganjou Brothers and Juanita act, which became famous in England when they starred in the Royal Variety Show of May 1933 included two singers, Aline Fournier and Vittorio Toso. Fournier, a coloratura soprano, was a French Canadian from Montreal, while the Italian-born Toso had been principal baritone with the San Carlo Opera.

Serge Ganjou was working in London when his brothers' act arrived in 1932. He joined them and in due course married "Juanita" - not the original Juanita, who had left, but the dancer Joy Marlowe who took

her place. She had been trained at the Italia Conti School and soon got the hang of holding herself fast as she was slung to and fro, smiling prettily the while. The ceremony was held in Las Vegas during their final tour of 1956.

A hugely successful international act, the Ganjou Brothers and Juanita played to appreciative audiences around the world, touring America, Australia and New Zealand before finally disbanding. Bob and George Ganjou became variety agents, while Serge opened Dauphine restaurant in South Kensington, specialising in dishes from his native Poland, a much-loved landmark in the area, it still flourishes in spite of several threats by developers.

The original Ganjou Brothers and Juanita act, which became famous in England when they starred in the Royal Variety Show of May 1933 included two singers, Aline Fournier and Vittorio Toso. Fournier, a coloratura soprano, was a French Canadian from Montreal, while the Italian-born Toso had been principal baritone with the San Carlo Opera.

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DENIS GIFFORD

**Serge Ganjou**, variety artiste; born Warsaw 6 January 1904; married 1936 Joy Marlowe (died 1992); died Twickenham, Middlesex 1997.



"Orgiastic tableau": the Ganjou Brothers and Juanita in 1937, with Serge at bottom right. Hulton Getty

## Bernard Lefort



**BERNARD LEFORT** had three careers. The first was as a distinguished baritone. In the second he combined musical administration with the flair of a market-minded impresario. And in the third, that of singing teacher; he passed on the techniques learned in the first career in a framework informed by the second.

Having obtained his bachelors in philosophy, Lefort was studying politics and law, simultaneously taking classes in voice and solfège at the Paris Conservatoire, when he was interrupted by the Second World War. With the return of peace, he decided to concen-

trate on music alone, pursuing his vocal studies in Milan, Berlin and Vienna. By then he had already made his debut in a series of wartime recitals in the Salle Gaveau in Paris, presenting in particular French melodies by contemporary composers, such as Les Six, Olivier Messiaen, André Jolivet and Henri Dutilleux.

He was also heard in the opera house, making his stage débüt (at the Palais Garnier) in *Don Giovanni* and Verdi's *Macbeth*. With Germaine Tailleferre, the only woman member of Les Six (the others were Darius Milhaud, Arthur Honegger, Francis Poulenc,

Georges Auric and Louis Durey), Lefort formed a regular duo partnership, touring together from 1949 to 1957. Tailleferre responded to Lefort's musicianship by composing her *Concerto for Baritone* for him; other composers were to pay him similar honours during the course of his singing career - which was abruptly cut short by serious illness in 1960.

Lefort therefore embarked on his second occupation, the one for which he will be best remembered. He began his life as a musical administrator as second-in-command at the Lorraine Festival, taking over the Marseilles opera in 1965. His three years there were marked by a refreshing openness to new repertoire, both old and new. Lefort looked out old bel canto operas that had long fallen into neglect (Ponchielli's *La Gioconda* and Donizetti's *Lucrèce Borgia*, for example) and put on contemporary works, often for the first time in France, such as Janácek's *The Makropulos Affair*, Henze's *The Prince of Homburg* and Britten's *The Turn of the Screw*.

He then moved up through a series of appointments: head of the autumn festival at Royaumont (1969), artistic advisor at the Théâtre de la Ville, Paris (1970-71), temporary head of the Opéra de Paris (1971-72, with Daniel Lesur) and director of the festival at Aix-en-Provence (1973-80). It was at Aix that he scored some of his most notable successes, perhaps the best of them his bringing together of Montserrat Caballé and Marilyn Horne in Rossini's *Tancredi*. He also lightened the atmosphere considerably: to the discomfort of Aix's old guard, jeans replaced evening gowns as standard attire, and the festival came alive.

When Rolf Liebermann left the Paris Opéra in 1980, Lefort was called back to succeed him, but his efforts at reform met such systematic opposition from the unions that he resigned halfway through his contract, in July 1982.

This was when career number three began. Lefort taught singing at Mannes College in New York and at the Academy of Vocal Art in Philadelphia; at the Juilliard School in New York he produced a student production of Gounod's *Mireille*. And in the late 1980s, he founded the Ecole d'art lyrique in Paris.

Lefort was diplomatically referred to as a "personnage flamboyant" and a "caractère difficile" and earned a repu-

tation for his short temper. He is generally assumed to have been homosexual, although Paris musical gossip talks obscurely of an earlier marriage to a well-off American woman. Whatever the truth of it, he faced old age as poor as he was lonely. He had already attempted suicide on several occasions and a week after moving back to Paris from homes in Lausanne and the Midi, he finally succeeded.

**MARTIN ANDERSON**  
*Bernard Lefort*, singer, administrator, teacher; born Paris 29 July 1922; died Paris 19 January 1999.

## Ahmed Pochee

**AHMED POCHEE** was a maverick who injected a fresh spirit of irreverence and fun into the staid world of the wine trade. The fact that he never took himself, or anyone else, too seriously, was the key both to his success and his low profile. He was an anti-hero for whom the trappings of success meant little compared to the job he loved doing.

The founder of Oddbins in the 1960s and the Great Wapping Wine Company in the 1970s, Pochee was the arch wheeler-dealer: right until his untimely death from myo-fibrosis, he was in his element sniffing out parcels of bankrupt stock in railway arches of the East End and selling them from the back of his battered blue Mercedes van to the posh wine merchants of Fulham and St James's.

Born in 1939, and brought up in north London, to an Indian father and English mother, Pochee was an unlikely patrol leader in the East Finchley Boy Scouts, before he contracted meningitis. He studied hotel management and started an economics degree (characteristically failing to finish it) at the Regent Street polytechnic before following in the culinary footsteps of his father, who had opened Edinburgh's first Indian restaurant.

As a sous-chef at Simpson's in the Strand and then a porter at Allot's, the wine merchants, the world of hotels and restaurants led him to London's subterranean cellars. With his knack of charming cellar and restaurant managers, he was soon tapping into the rich seam of surplus stocks of often undervalued wine. Starting to trade in odd parcels and bins of wine, he set up his own business, Oddbins, when he was 21, with a help of a loan from his best friend, John Benetti.

At this time, high-street off-licences were largely in the hands of the big brewers looking for an outlet for their brands. Pochee's Oddbins, with its breezy anarchic style, its knowledgeable staff and the inevitable music of Miles Davis and Nina Simone, started the process of blowing the cobwebs away from the old-fashioned off-licence.

When the London docks were being closed in the late 1960s, Pochee struck a deal with Customs and Excise whereby, on payment of the excise duty, he was able to lay his hands on large quantities of unclaimed parcels of wine. Despite the fact that 1968 was a dreadful vintage, he cocked a snook at the traditional wine trade by selling classified clarets with grand names such as Beychevelle Cos d'Estournel and Grand Puy Lacoste for 19s 1d (99p). This was the sort of thing which made Oddbins' reputation for extraordinary bargains and appealed to newcomers to wine who were put off by the wine trade's crusty image.

Wheeler-dealing was Pochee's métier, based on a profound understanding of the value of wine and the difference between what he could pay for it and what he could get for it. With the Great Wapping Wine Company, started in 1972, he was an early pioneer of the pile-it-high, sell-it-cheap philosophy which led to the likes of the Majestic Wine Warehouse chain. Along with wine, he introduced special imports of virgin olive oils, cheeses and fish considered exotic at the time.

*Pochee's Oddbins started the process of blowing the cobwebs away from the old-fashioned off-licence*

But his capacity for successful retailing was limited. According to his former partner Tony Mason, now with Majestic, "his innovative spirit was not matched by entrepreneurial ability or respect for the rules".

Gleefully antisocial, Pochee went out of his way to ruffle the feathers of the pompous. At the end of one particularly boring black tie dinner, he announced he was going to remove the table cloth, leaving everything on the table intact. In fact, he brought glasses, bottles, cutlery and crockery crashing to the floor.

While his eccentric personality inspired affection in many, his mischievous spirit did not endear him to the wine trade establishment; in fact it is widely believed that, when the big boys put Oddbins into receivership in 1973, it was done out of spite. Oddbins was able to pay all its creditors in full, with plenty left over for the shareholders.

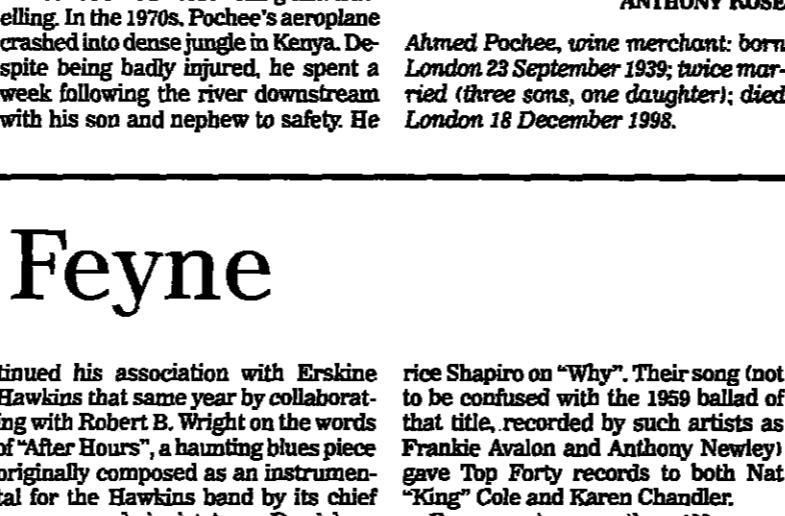
Pochee loved horse-riding and travelling. In the 1970s, Pochee's aeroplane crashed into dense jungle in Kenya. Despite being badly injured, he spent a week following the river downstream with his son and nephew to safety. He

ran for Highgate Harriers, competing in several marathons, and achieving a personal best of two hours 40 minutes as a veteran.

In the last two years of his life, when he knew he was terminally ill, he carried on trading in the beloved grimy van from which, on his instructions, the final delivery, his coffin, was lifted.

ANTHONY ROSE

Ahmed Pochee, wine merchant: born London 23 September 1939; twice married (three sons, one daughter); died London 18 December 1998.



## Buddy Feyne

**BUDDY FEYNE** was not one of Tin Pan Alley's legendary songwriters, but, in a long and varied career, he did put words to two popular instrumental pieces, "Tuxedo Junction" and "The Jersey Bounce".

Born Bernard Feinstein in 1912, he grew up in the tough Spanish Harlem section of New York City, and longed, from an early age, to be part of the music business. While singing with various obscure bands in and around New York, he began writing special material for himself and other vocalists. He became Feyne when he met Milton Berle in the 1930s. "Feinstein sounds too Jewish," advised the comedian, who had himself begun life as Berliner.

In 1939 "Tuxedo Junction" was introduced by Erskine Hawkins and his band at the Savoy Ballroom, in New York, and was an immediate hit. The song was named after a railroad stop in Alabama; its instrumental was composed by Hawkins and his saxophonist Bill Johnson and Julian Dash. Helped immeasurably by Wilburn "Dud" Bascomb's muted but swinging

trumpet solo (often mistakenly credited to Hawkins), the band's recording for the Bluebird label was its biggest-ever success, and the piece soon replaced Hawkins' "Swing-Out" as his signature tune.

White bands of the day often looked to black bands for material and Glenn Miller soon recorded his own version of "Tuxedo Junction" for the same label, scoring an even greater hit. When it was decided to add words to the music, the 22-year-old Feyne was sent by his publisher to meet Hawkins as a possible lyricist. After hearing "Tuxedo" only once, he impressed the bandleader by dashing off the complete lyric on the spot. The song was successfully recorded by the Andrews Sisters and by Jan Savitt and other orchestras.

Feyne and Bill Johnson's "Dolomite" record for Bluebird by the Hawkins band caught the attention of Jimmy Dorsey, who recorded it with his orchestra for Decca (1940).

Feyne became a member of the American Society of Composers and Publishers (ASCAP) in 1940 and con-

tinued his association with Erskine Hawkins that same year by collaborating with Robert B. Wright on the words of "After Hours", a haunting blues piece originally composed as an instrumental for the Hawkins band by its chief arranger and pianist Avery Parrish.

In the late 1930s Feyne was busy in radio, not only as a solo singer, but as a writer-producer of the series *Rhythm School of the Air*. During the Second World War he served overseas with the 77th Infantry Division, presenting Army shows and winning the Bronze Star. After the war, he wrote and produced for television, provided both words and music for *Time for Fun*, an album of children's songs, and launched a music publishing firm.

In 1946 he and Robert B. Wright put words to "The Jersey Bounce", an instrumental co-composed five years earlier by Wright, Bobby Plate, Tiny Bradshaw and Edward Johnson, and originally popularised by the Glenn Miller and Benny Goodman bands. The piece had a second success as a song.

In 1954 Feyne collaborated with Mau-

rice Shapiro on "Why". Their song (not to be confused with the 1959 ballad of that title, recorded by such artists as Frankie Avalon and Anthony Newley) gave Top Forty records to both Nat "King" Cole and Karen Chandler.

Feyne wrote more than 400 songs, his other collaborators including Milton Berle, Harry Revel, Bill Hargrave, Raymond Scott, Al Sherman and Peter Tinturia.

He is survived by a son and a daughter from his second marriage, and by his third wife, the former Leatrice Ruzow, who was running his publishing company when, at the age of 82, he proposed to her. "Buddy was a sweet man, but he always had a new song on his mind," she recalls. "So I arranged for us to get married on my birthday. I figured it would give him one less big day to remember."

DICK VOSBURGH

Bernard Feinstein (Buddy Feyne), lyricist, composer, publisher, singer: born New York 9 June 1912; three times married (one son, one daughter); died Los Angeles 10 December 1998.

## GAZETTE

### BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS

#### DEATHS

**RYLANDS:** The funeral service of George H.W. (Daddie) Rylands CH CBE, Fellow of King's College, Cambridge, will be held in King's College Chapel on Monday 25 January at 3pm. No flowers or donations will be accepted. Details may be sent to Cambridge Arts Theatre Trust, St Edward's Passage, Cambridge CB2 3PL.

Announcements for Gazette **BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS** (Births, Adoptions, Marriages, Deaths, Memorial services, Wedding anniversaries, In memoriam) are charged at £5.50 a line (VAT extra). OTHER Gazette announcements (notices, functions, forthcoming marriages, etc.) which must be submitted in writing, must be charged at £10 a line, VAT extra. Announcements include a daytime telephone number. The *Independent's* main switchboard number is 0171-293 2000.

Post Gazette announcements to the Gazette Editor, The Independent, telephone 0171-293 2012 (24-hour answering machine 0171-293 2011) or fax to 0171-293 2010. Please give a daytime telephone number.

#### BIRTHDAYS

Miss Mary Hayley Bell, playwright, 88; Admiral Sir Lindsay Bryson, Lord-Lieutenant for East Sussex, 74; Commander Lord Cottesloe, Lord-Lieutenant for Buckinghamshire, 72; Sir John Cotton, former diplomat, 90; Sir Charles Davis, former Counsel to the Speaker, 90; Mr George Foreman, boxer, 51; Miss Anna Goddard QC, circuit judge, 63; Miss Margaret Hall, head of design, British Museum, 63; Professor Cyril Hogarth, physicist, 75; Lord Hughes, former Minister of State for Scotland, 88; Mr John Hurt, actor, 59; Miss Piper Laurie, actress, 67; Baroness Lockwood, former president, Birkbeck College, 75; Dr Lotte Newman, former president, Royal College of General Practitioners, 70; Sir Alfred Ramsey, former football manager, 79; Mrs Claire Rayner, journalist and broadcaster, 68; Mrs Gillian Shepherd MP, 59; Miss Ann Sothern, actress, 90; Sir Michael Spicer MP,

#### ANNIVERSARIES

Births: George Gordon Byron, sixth Baron Byron, poet, 1788; August Strindberg, playwright, 1849; David Wark Griffith, silent film producer and director, 1875; Deaths: William Paterson, founder of the Bank of England, 1719; Queen Victoria, 1801; Walter Richard Sickert, painter, 1942. On this day: the Falkland Islands were ceded to Britain by Spain, 1711; Ramsay MacDonald, the first Labour prime minister, took office, 1924; the first broadcast of a football match took place (Arsenal v Sheffield United) at Highbury, London, 1927. Today is the Feast Day of St Anastasius the Persian, St Brithwold of Ramsbury, St Blesilla, St Dominic of Sora, St Vincent Pallotti and St Vincent of Saragossa.

#### LECTURES

National Gallery: Julian Tozer, "Entrances and Exits (iii)", 1pm.

Victoria and Albert Museum: Pat Earnshaw, "Identifying Needle Laces", 2pm.

Tate Gallery: Justine Hopkins, "Sex, Creativity and Reputation", Moore, Hepworth and Epstein", 1pm.

British Museum: Rachel Ward, "Introducing 'Edward Falkener, a Victorian orientalist'", 1.30am.

#### SYNAGOGUE SERVICES

Details of synagogue services to be held tomorrow may be obtained by telephoning the following. Sabbath begins in London at 4.17pm.

- United Synagogues: 0181-343 8888.
- Federation of Synagogues: 0161-202 2288.
- Union of Liberal and Progressive Synagogues: 0171-350 1861.
- Edinburgh Hebrew Congregation: 0131-343 4731.
- Spanish and Portuguese Jews Congregation: 0171-289 2573.
- New London Synagogue (Massoth): 0171-325 1026.

#### ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

The Duke of York, Patron, visits the Royal Free Hampstead NHS Trust, London NW3. The Princess Royal opens St Julie's Hospice at St Michael's Hospital, Hayle, Cornwall; visits the Humphry Davy School, Penzance, and opens new buildings; opens the Centre for Foundation Studies at Cornwall College, Pool, Redruth; visits Philip Carr Marketing, Long Rock, Penzance; and visits Classic Cottages, Leslie House, Helston. The Duke of Kent, President, the Royal Institution of Great Britain, attends an evening discourse by Professor Susan Greenfield at the Institution, Albemarle Street, London W1.

CHANGING OF THE GUARD

The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am.

"DO YOU want butter on it?" asked the man in a Brighton sandwich-shop. "Yes, please." With which, he dug his knife into a tub of grease which I could not believe was butter. "Is that margarine?" "Yes." "But you just asked if I wanted butter." "I know," he said, knife aloft, "it's a figure of speech, isn't it?"

#### WORDS

CHRISTOPHER HAWTREE

butter, n.

No arguing with that (but why is it yellow, not blue or green?) – but there in the fridge was some butter, wrapper folded along most

## PHILOSOPHICAL NOTES

MARTIN COHEN

## Philosophy as a guide to political action

SHOULD GENERAL Pinochet be extradited to stand trial for crimes against humanity? Should something be done to stop the massacres by Serbian forces? Clearly ethical issues. But what of the question of the legalisation of drugs, or of the treatment of juvenile offenders? Should... but hang on – this isn't philosophy!

A lot of political issues seem to have philosophical roots, ethical elements. We are interested to hear the views of politicians, of course. And, where appropriate, lawyers, policemen, even economists may be consulted – but philosophers?

It may seem rather odd now, but the Ancient Greeks saw one of the key purposes of philosophy as a guide to action, helping to answer the question "what should I do?"

So often the political, legal and even economic arguments are actually old philosophical ones. The names are changed, but the issues are the same. Strip away the irrelevant, superficial characteristics, and start to analyse the structure. The answers then, surely, can be better seen.

Gottfried Leibniz thought he had developed a kind of early computer which would be capable of gobbling up difficult ethical issues, digesting them, and spitting back an answer that all would accept. "Come, let us calculate," would be the recourse of all civilised people, faced

with such as Slobodan Milošević and Augusto Pinochet.

In the 17th century, computers were rather rudimentary, consisting of bits but no bytes, and the dream remained a dream. But now, with machines capable of analysing a thousand times more information than is relevant, of processing a million more algorithms than there are people to think up algorithms, surely can we begin to use good philosophical principles to mechanically solve some of our pressing problems?

Well, let's try a few. Take General Pinochet. Let the computer adopt a utilitarian approach. We do not care what Pinochet has done (or not done). Will the happiness of the relatives of his victims outweigh the distress of his supporters? Will his trial increase or decrease the likelihood of other dictators committing atrocious crimes?

What are the principles involved? That no one should be allowed to be above the international principles respecting the sanctity of life, forbidding torture, and that political expediency are wholly amoral?

Or with Slobodan Milošević, who has successfully used international law to allow himself the right to commit the most ghastly crimes for several years – what advantages are there to respecting the sovereignty of the nation state, even when it is a terminally sick gov-

ernment devouring its own citizens, if intervention could yet lead to chaotic spread of the contagious disease?

But already it seems that however useful and impartial the calculation, the argument over the rules programmed will be just as intense and insoluble as before. The issues remain stubbornly political and emotive, not to say irrational. The philosophers can come in and airy announce, like Rousseau, that they will begin by "setting aside the facts, as they will not affect the question", but they cannot set aside the starting assumptions (the axioms and the principles). And often that is where the disagreement lies.

At least with the problem of juvenile offenders, graduating on their tiresome diet of graffiti, burglary and violence, we are on the safe ground of being able to test our hypotheses. Let the offenders be given money for clubbing, drugs for relief, and free access to the Internet! Then see how many give up offending. Later, let others be imprisoned in their own homes, or in special cells (still, of course, with Internet links, but now only to philosophical sites). Then watch their frustration fight with grudging acceptance of the might of the law.

But for that, we do not need the computer. Nor, come to think of it, the philosophers.

Martin Cohen is the editor of *The Philosopher*.

## Sincere belief is insufficient defence

### FRIDAY LAW REPORT

22 JANUARY 1999

Pro Sieben Media AG v Carlton UK Television Ltd and another

Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Nourse, Lord Justice Henry and Lord Justice Robert Walker)

17 December 1998

far as it could be treated as a discrete issue.

It was not necessary, however, for the court to put itself in the shoes of the infringer of the copyright in order to decide whether the offending piece was published "for the purposes of criticism or review", and it should not give any encouragement to the notion that all that was required was for the user to have the sincere belief, however misguided, that he or she was criticising a work or reporting current affairs.

The Court of Appeal allowed Carlton Television's appeal against a decision that it had infringed the copyright of Pro Sieben Media AG.

The plaintiff, a German television company, claimed that the defendants had infringed its copyrights by including in one of its programmes a 30-second extract from a German television programme, which had been broadcast by the plaintiff in a magazine programme called TAFF.

The plaintiff's programme was about Mandy Allwood, who was pregnant with eight live embryos as a result of fertility treatment. The plaintiff had made an agreement with Max Clifford, Ms Allwood's public relations consultant, giving it the exclusive right to broadcast an interview with Ms Allwood to German television, within section 30(2), but that if he were wrong about that, he was in no doubt that the use made of the extract was not fair in all the circumstances. The defendants appealed.

# Trains, planes and terminal anoraks

WHAT WILL be the next television programme about airports? TV executives love to copy winning formulas, so maybe it will be "Terminal Decoration". The format will be that, while the boss of an international airport is away for the weekend, a team from Carlton - led by Gary Lineker - wallpapers the terminal and re-farmacs the runway. Or "Who Wants to Be a Long-Haul Pilot?", in which members of the public try to fly a jumbo across the Atlantic, and if they go into a tailspin they're entitled to "phone a friend".

But there's one group, ever-present at any major airport, that's never likely to be filmed. At Gatwick you find them by going round the back of Thornton's chocolate shop, then along a corridor that looks as though you're not allowed to go down it: the sort of corridor in which you expect to overhear whispering criminals plotting to kidnap an ambassador. Then up a lift and past a bloke who apologises for charging you £1.50, and there they are: the plane-spotters.

There may seem to be a peculiarity at the heart of this

hobby. Bird-spotting, for example, offers a challenge. If a species can be found only on the Faroe Islands, and you have to take a boat there and then crawl through the woods at Sam to catch a glimpse of this rare bird through the undergrowth, that represents quite an achievement. It doesn't carry quite the same glory to succeed in spotting a plane at an airport.

So they wait for their plane, and then they write down the number. All day. "I normally come here first, and then go to Heathrow," said Derek, who's been coming since 1978.

The coffee-shop staff know them all personally, although the spotters don't drink much coffee. Instead, they bring zip-up bags carrying binoculars, notebooks covered in numbers, Tupperware boxes of sandwiches, and bottles of diluted orange squash they've prepared earlier. Which makes them look quite cute, like 40-year-old cub scouts on an outing.

As this dedicated line of around 30 spotters rubs its hands to keep warm, the uninitiated can't help but wonder why I began to wonder whether they'd think I was weird if I told them that I preferred to go dustcart-spotting. And that there was a

bastard didn't turn up. So specialised is this group that if a spaceship hovered down, they'd throw their arms up in exasperation about poxy aliens blocking the runway, and complain that now there was nowhere for the AH to land, they might as well go home.

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**MARK STEEL**



**ON LOCATION**

B6576 that I'd seen every Monday for eight years, even after it was moved from Lambeth to Croydon because it didn't suit the wheelie-bins. Would they think I was at all odd if I said I had a mate who went to fairgrounds all over the country to go dogmeat-spotting?

Yet you can't help feeling, as each plane roars off the runway to a flurry of felt pens on exercise books, that there is a rationale to this pastime. For deep down, the spotters do sense that with every take-off and landing, they're recording a momentous event. By comparison, last year I was

on a plane about to take off from Barbados and destined to land at Gatwick, where no doubt it would be spotted. As the captain was doing his opening routine, he announced that owing to the wind flapping the wrong way, we'd be landing 25 minutes later than scheduled. "Oh," belched the woman in the next seat to mine, throwing her arms in the air. "Isn't that typical?"

In pursuing this pointlessness, John had been arrested twice. The first time was in northern Greece, when we broke into an airfield. That was a laugh.

Though, for all we know, they

were suspected of being Turkish spies. The numbers they'd

written were handed to a crack

team of codebreakers, and the

orange squash was delicately

buried underground and blown

up in a controlled explosion.

"Then I got arrested for breaking

into RAF Mildenhall with my

mate. He was obsessed with this

plane that could only be spotted

at this American air base. So we

slipped under the fence, but they

caught us. But we spotted the

plane, so we could tick it off."

They were kept overnight, he

said, but once the Americans

accepted that they were plane-

spotters, they gave them a big

overhead, he said, fascinated him because it contained a hundred stories. Why this led him to write down the number of the thing in a book, he wasn't sure. It's a pointless pastime, but then so is everybody's, unless your hobby is something like road-sweeping or mending the ozone layer.

Clearly, the fact that she was about to cross continents gave her no sense of occasion. Instead she was probably thinking, "I was hoping to nip back from Bridgetown and get home in time for Heartbeat."

Whereas plane-spotter John was as captivated as ever by the importance of the events he was witnessing. "The marvellous thing about an airport," he said, "is looking at everyone in the departure lounge, and wondering what they'll be doing tomorrow. You look at a queue of people, and maybe the first one's a dodgy geezer who'll be in Thailand buying drugs; she'll be at a funeral in Turkey; and he'll be having a bunk-up in Norway."

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spotters, they gave them a big

breakfast and showed them

round the whole airfield.

So could you really write this hobby off as boring? How many DIY enthusiasts would take on the most powerful military machine in history, for a glimpse of their favourite Rawipng? How many gardeners would risk solitary confinement for a

curlanthemum?

Every hobby is pointless. The trick is to recognise your own as such, and then pursue it with ludicrous dedication.

So, a banker of a TV series

would be a drama about a plane-

spotter and his assistant.

breaking into top-security

establishments and uncovering

conspiracies to hide the truth

about the whereabouts of their

favourite plane. It could be called

"The AH Files" and subtitled

"The bloody thing must be out

there".

Maybe Saddam's a plane-

spotter specialising in Stealth

bombers. And the only way he

could tick it off was to kick out

the weapons inspectors. So on

the first night of the bombing, he

was on the roof of his palace

screaming "Got it at last."

It is well known fed a reduced humans, would to a cream

I f you told a farmer to stricken part of Africa hungry might make him the kindest reply you might be a piling shales And yet, since the mid-T

And yet, known that feeding children the bare minimum needed to lengthen their lives by as much

A year may not seem much

but, if your lifespan is just

to start with, a year's extension to start with, a year's extension

Recent research shows that severe restriction in short-lived animals increases lifespan by around

Unsurprisingly, the calorie-restricted

shorter and smaller. It also tends

to shorten its fertility. But, apart from

obvious differences, calorie-restricted

animals perform better in tests of

endurance. They have reduced

longer lifespans, and in keeping

internally, they are better at

damaged molecules, such as

proteins attacked by free radicals

How does calorie restriction do

Could it just be that it is not the

restricted diet that is abnormal, but

that offers continuous access to an

food supply? The typical labora-

tive life in the rodent equivalent

fast-food restaurant. Alert to this

researchers have shown that

restriction still works when the ani-

mal avoids any tendency towards

overeating.

Another idea is that calorie re-

striction reduces metabolism, slow-

down production of toxic by-products such

radicals. This harks back to an ear-

lier "rate-of-living" theory, ac-

to which organisms with a high mi-

rate live shorter lives. This has sin-

shown to be false - eg birds have

metabolic rates than mammals, ye-

while they live longer. In fact, the

rate per gram of body mass is, in fact,

increased in calorie-restricted mice.

At first sight, it seems paradoxical

that a mouse or a rat puts more effort

into running than a human does

when food is scarce, but it is a

way to explain it. Animals in

good times are interspersed wi-

thout

Q: Who invented the rubber band?

According to Harwin

Chronology of Inventions,

Innovations and Discoveries

by Kevin Desmond (1987), it

was Stephen Perry of Messrs

Manufacturers, London, from

vulcanised rubber.

Q: How do you determine the sex of a tarantula?

When tarantulas are young, they

all look like females, but as they

get older, their sex becomes

more obvious. Adult males have

longer legs and larger

stomachs than females. Also, the

males' palps (the feely bits that

stick out of the head) are

shaped like clubs. However, it

may take 10 months, or about

seven years, for these

differences to become obvious.

Q: Why is Madame Curie so famous? What did she do?

Marie Curie is often portrayed

as a sort of scientific saint - the

Florence Nightingale of

physics. In reality, like Florence

Nightingale, she was as tough as old boots

and an able administrator. She

## SCIENCE

## Hungry for a longer life?

**It is well known that rodents live longer if fed a reduced-calorie diet. If it worked for humans, would any of us prefer longevity to a cream cake? By Tom Kirkwood**

If you told a farmer in a drought-stricken part of Africa that going hungry might make him live longer, the kindest reply you might receive would be a pitying shake of the head.

And yet, since the mid-1970s it has been known that feeding laboratory mice and rats the bare minimum needed for survival lengthens their lives by as much as a year. A year may not seem much to you and me, but if your lifespan is just three years to start with, a year's extension is a lot. Recent research shows that severe calorie restriction in short-lived animals may activate a "time-out" strategy to cope with periods of hunger. Supposing it works for humans, too - something we don't know yet - could we hack all those hungry days and nights for the sake of 30 more years of the same? But even if it doesn't - or if we can't - we can look to calorie restriction to tell us how the rate of ageing is controlled.

Under-feeding in human beings is bad news. Famine stunts growth and shortens lives. If you are a woman, hunger harms the babies you carry. It even harms the next generation if your baby is a daughter. A woman's egg supply is formed when she herself is an embryo. If a mother is starved, her daughter's fertility may be affected.

Calorie restriction, however, is not malnutrition. Described as "under-nutrition without malnutrition", calorie restriction provides essential nutrients, but with a much reduced total energy intake. In mice and rats, reducing energy intake by 30-50 per cent increases lifespan by around a third. Unsurprisingly, the calorie-restricted rodent is lighter and smaller. It also tends to shut down its fertility. But, apart from these obvious differences, calorie-restricted animals are in many respects healthier. They perform better in tests of stamina and endurance, they have reduced rates of developing cancer, and, in keeping with their longer lifespans, they appear to age more slowly. Internally, they are better at repairing damaged molecules, such as DNA and proteins attacked by free radicals.

How does calorie restriction do all this? Could it just be that it is not the calorie-restricted diet that is abnormal, but the diet that offers continuous access to an unlimited food supply? The typical laboratory rat lives all its life in the rodent equivalent of a fast-food restaurant. Alert to this criticism, researchers have shown that calorie restriction still works when the animals are compared with others fed a controlled diet, which avoids any tendency towards becoming overweight.

Another idea is that calorie restriction simply reduces metabolism, slowing the production of toxic by-products such as free radicals. This harks back to an early notion called the "rate-of-living" theory, according to which organisms with a high metabolic rate live shorter lives. This has since been shown to be false - eg birds have higher metabolic rates than mammals, yet on the whole they live longer. In fact, the metabolic rate per gram of body mass is, if anything, increased in calorie-restricted mice.

At first sight, it seems paradoxical that a mouse or a rat puts more effort into its metabolism when food is scarce, but there is a way to explain it. Animals in the wild need to cope with a variable food supply. Good times are interspersed with bad.

Hibernating animals deal with the regular lean times of winter by entering a state of torpor. An alternative, when interruptions in food supply are less predictable, is to be flexible about how energy resources are used. Making the best use of available energy is critically important in the harsh struggle for existence. In particular, an animal needs to pay special attention to how it allocates energy between maintenance and reproduction. Getting the balance right is, literally, a matter of life and death. It may explain why we age.

Some years ago, I suggested that the reason we age is that, under the imperative of natural selection, our genes evolved a strategy whereby, in effect, they treat the body or soma, as disposable. The highest priority of the genes, from a Darwinian point of view, is to invest in offspring. Investing in a long life is of secondary importance - hence the "disposable" soma. We invest enough in maintenance to keep the body in good shape through what would have been the normal life expectancy of our ancestors - when life was nasty, brutish and short - but no more than that.

If the energy supply fluctuates unpredictably - a problem that is particularly acute for small animals with limited fat deposits - a key question is just how much should be invested in maintenance when the going gets tough. Should the animal neglect the maintenance of its soma and put all its energy into a last-ditch effort at reproduction? Or should it suspend reproduction until its prospects of successfully raising a litter are brighter? If it chooses the second option, it may even want to increase its maintenance and keep its soma in prime condition for making babies in the future.

The UK Treasury has powerful computer models to help explore the best options for deploying its fiscal budget, and it was to a computer that my colleague Daryl Shanley and I turned to investigate the best strategy for a mouse with its budget of calories. We developed, in effect, a "virtual" wild mouse.

We challenged the virtual mouse with periodic bouts of "food shortage" and allowed it to evolve its optimal strategy. What we found was deeply interesting. When there was lots of food available, the virtual mouse did just what the real mouse does - it reproduced, and tuned its investment in maintenance to give a lifespan of around three years. But when the food supply fell, and the mouse could no longer manage both to maintain itself and to reproduce, it abandoned reproduction, it increased the effort it put into maintenance, and it lived longer. In other words, the computer model confirmed that the life-extending properties of calorie restriction make evolutionary sense.

No one knows whether calorie restriction works in humans, but let us suppose for a moment that it can. What would we have to do to gain our longer lives?

Mice and rats show the greatest gain when food is restricted early in life, soon after weaning. Such practice would be ill-advised in humans because it stunts growth and interferes with learning. The eating disorder anorexia nervosa, when it occurs in adolescents, delays or blocks reproductive maturation and bone development. Nevertheless, even when started only in adult animals, calorie restriction has a significant, though lesser, effect on lifespan. For



Calorie reduction may not lead to longer life, but it can tell us how the rate of ageing is controlled. *Hulton Getty*

humans, 18 might be a good age to begin.

A reasonable target for a calorie-restricted human might be 70 per cent of the normal diet. Herein lies the obvious difficulty. A typical maintenance diet for an office worker is 2,000 calories a day for a man and 1,800 for a woman. Reducing this to just 1,400 or 1,350 calories a day is an unappealing prospect. We will need to find ways to trick our bodies into feeling sated, even though our energy intake is so low that it would have most of us ducking into the nearest cafe for a hefty snack. Goodness knows, most of us eat far too much. We continue to do this -

and to eat the wrong things - even though we know full well that it is bad for us.

In spite of being hooked on what for many of us are unattainable ideals of slender bodily perfection, we are tempted by high-calorie products such as chocolate bars, cream cakes and chips. The real difficulty with going hungry is that the benefits of a healthy old age, and maybe even of some extra years of life, seem pretty remote when you are tempted by immediate gratification.

Let's not be too gloomy if we can't match up to those sleek but hungry little mice. Calorie restriction is telling us a lot about the

processes that affect the rate of ageing. No doubt, as we learn more, we will find other ways to use these insights to combat the diseases of ageing and to enhance our quality of life in old age.

**Tom Kirkwood** is professor of biological gerontology at Manchester University. His latest book, *Time of Our Lives*, is published by Weidenfeld & Nicolson, price £20. He will be giving the keynote speech at an ICA forum on Science, Ageing and Immortality, on 4 February at 7.30pm, at the Royal Institution, London (0171-930 3647).

## UPDATE

HUMAN EMBRYONIC stem cells are not covered by the United States' ban on state funding for human embryo research, the US National Institutes of Health has declared. The legal opinion, issued earlier this week, is an important milestone for US scientists aiming to investigate the possible benefits of stem cells, for example to grow new organs for adults. The ban defines an embryo as an "organism" - which stem cells, being individual elements, are not, the NIH declared.

DOLLY THE sheep was the success; but many attempts to clone animals or produce them by in-vitro fertilisation (IVF) have resulted in very large foetuses which did not survive in the womb. Now, teams in the US and Scotland have found that levels of IGF-2, a protein which promotes growth, were much higher in the livers of cow foetuses produced by IVF rather than artificial insemination. "It suggests that the IVF procedure somehow programmes the IGF-2 gene," Patrick Blondin of North Carolina State University told *New Scientist* magazine.

UNDERGROUND VOLCANIC activity on ancient Mars sculpted gorges far larger than the Grand Canyon in the United States, and melted enough water to create floods of biblical proportions, according to two British geologists.

Dan McKenzie and Francis Nimmo at Cambridge University suggest that huge wedges of molten rock - known as dikes - stretched the surface, and also melted vast amounts of ice, causing colossal floods thought to have scourered Mars's surface between two and three billion years ago.

The theory, put forward in *Nature*, suggests that some water could have been trapped underground to provide the sort of warm, moist oases where other scientists have suggested that life could have survived.

SETI, THE Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence, has begun looking for visible signs of alien life. Previously, groups working for Seti have relied on listening for radio messages - often in the so-called "hydrogen band" at microwave frequencies. But the new initiative at the University of California, Berkeley, and the Smithsonian Observatory in Cambridge, Massachusetts, will use optical telescopes. One will look for short pulses of light, as brief as a billionth of a second, from nearby stars while the other will look for steady, extremely narrow band laser pulses, or single-colour light signals.

**CHARLES ARTHUR**

## TECHNOQUEST

**Q: Who invented the rubber band?**  
According to *Harwin Chronology on Inventions, Innovations and Discoveries* by Kevin Desmond (1987), it was Stephen Perry of Messrs Perry and Co, Rubber Co Manufacturers, London, from vulcanised rubber.

**Q: How do you determine the sex of a tarantula?**  
When tarantulas are young they all look like females, but as they get older their sex becomes more obvious. Adult males have hooks on their front legs and their stomachs are smaller than females'. Also, the males' "pedipalps" (the feely bits that stick out of the head) are shaped like clubs. However, it may take 10 months, or about seven years, for these differences to become obvious.

**Q: Why is Madame Curie so famous? What did she do?**  
Marie Curie is often portrayed as a sort of scientific saint - the Florence Nightingale of physics. In reality, like Florence she was as tough as old boots and an able administrator. She was a left-wing atheist who at one point was involved in a terrible scandal: she was accused of breaking up another

physicist's marriage, which eventually led to a duel (not involving her, though.)

Maria Skłodowska, as she was originally called, was the daughter of a Polish science-teacher. She went to study physics and chemistry in Paris, where she married a physics professor, Pierre Curie. In 1897 Marie decided to study radioactivity for her doctorate.

In 1898 she began by working through all the elements then known, and found that uranium and thorium were radioactive. She then tried minerals and discovered that uranium ore (pitchblende) was far more radioactive than it should be for the uranium that it contained.

Marie suggested that the ore contained an unknown, but highly radioactive, element in such a small concentration as to be invisible. Having little money, she and Pierre were forced to work in an old shed that had been a mortuary. It took them four years to extract a tiny quantity of radium from several tonnes of ore. They took very few precautions against the radiation, and even today Marie Curie's notebooks weigh 4.9 x 10<sup>18</sup> newtons (a mass of about 5 million billion tonnes).

She received two Nobel prizes for her work on radioactivity before she died of

leukaemia at the age of 67.

Continuing, one of the couple's daughters, Irene, and her husband discovered how to make things radioactive using neutrons. They also received a Nobel prize.

**Q: How many stars are there in a constellation?**  
The number varies a lot. They are counted by measuring the number of stars that can be seen in an area of the sky. The Southern Cross has lots of stars - 19.6 per 100 square degrees of sky. Most others have between five and six per 100 degrees. An easier way is to count the number of bright stars.

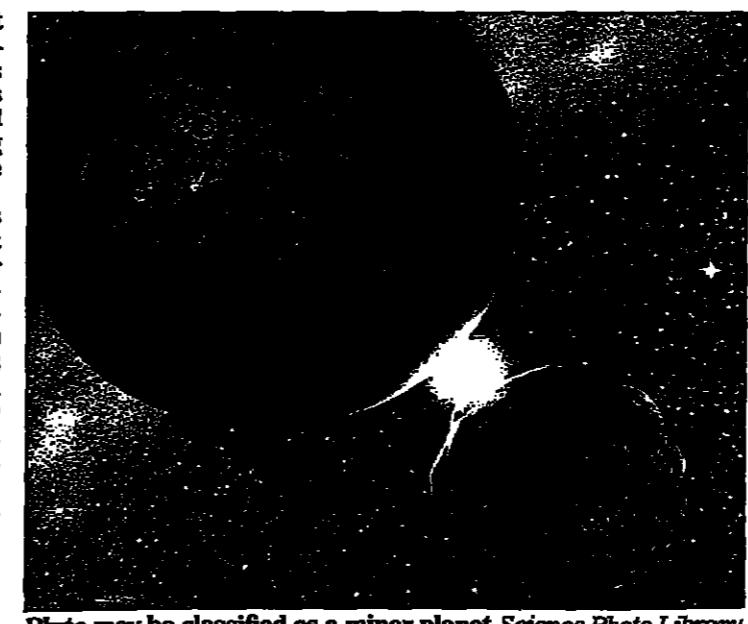
In the northern hemisphere, Centaurus has 18 bright stars. Carina Minor has only two.

**Q: How heavy is the Earth's atmosphere?**  
Assuming the Earth to be a perfectly flat sphere with an air pressure of 9.65 x 10<sup>4</sup> newtons per square metre (14 pounds per square inch) all over its surface, the atmosphere weighs 4.9 x 10<sup>18</sup> newtons (a mass of about 5 million billion tonnes).

You can visit the Technoquest World Wide Web site at <http://www.scienceonet.org.uk>

## THE TRUTH ABOUT...

## PLUTO



Pluto may be classified as a minor planet. *Science Photo Library*

elliptical than ours, and is inclined to the plane of the other eight planets by 17 degrees.

Even Patrick Moore, the respected astronomer, comments in his book *Mission to the Planets* that "Altogether, Pluto is a maverick, and there are grounds for doubting whether it is worthy of true satellite status." Towards the end of the

belt is thought to be the source of the comets that occasionally dive into the centre of the solar system, past the Sun.

Hence the IAU's unease. "For at least 20 years, it's been obvious that Pluto doesn't fit," says Mike A'Hearn, an astronomer at the University of Maryland, who heads the Planetary Systems Sciences Division of the IAU.

Dr A'Hearn wants to create a new class of objects for ice-balls that orbit beyond Neptune, and call them Trans-Neptunian Objects. Pluto would then be Trans-Neptunian Object No 1.

Brian Marsden, of the IAU's Minor Planet Centre, says he has a better idea. He'd like to see Pluto classified as a "minor planet," of which there are thousands, then made to take a number. The prized number 10,000 will probably come up next month. And, Professor Marsden says, it would not be a demotion for Pluto to be referred to as the 10,000th minor planet: "It's an honour," he insists.

But to Alan Hale, one of the astronomers to discover Comet Hale-Bopp, the whole debate is rather silly. "A hypothetical resident of Jupiter would probably laugh at our calling Earth a 'major planet,'" he points out.

**CHARLES ARTHUR**

# Nicely brought up but badly behaved

In the classic Decadent text of the late 19th century that was to influence Oscar Wilde's *The Picture of Dorian Gray*, the anti-hero of J.K. Huysmans' *Against Nature*, the Comte des Esseintes, retires to a Parisian suburban villa to indulge his taste for exquisite objects. His epicene pursuit reaches its apogee when he decides to have the shell of a tortoise embossed with jewels, carefully chosen so as to make a perfect aesthetic complement to his Persian rugs as the creature crawls around the house. However, it refuses to move; and the comte realises that his pet has perished, overwrought by the weight of gems on its back.

As we crawl through our own *fin-de-siècle*, weighed down by worries about the Millennium Bug, would anyone dare to replicate the comte's gesture? Perhaps. Louise Taylor, co-curator of the *Decadence?* show that opens this week at the Crafts Council, quotes one of the exhibiting artists, Grayson Perry: "Decadence in our age is not just a matter of jewelled tortoises and Venus flytraps, more an epidemic of hype, he cult of celebrity, 60-channel TV and worn-out irony." It is an opinion borne out on Perry's pair of classic urns, apparently prettily decorated in gold, which on closer inspection are seen to feature sordid scenes of mayhem and murder.

Grayson Perry was among "50 or so" artists contacted by the show's curators. They were asked "Does decadence exist now, and what does it mean to you?" The result is the *fin-de-siècle* cabinet of curiosities to be found here. Significantly, the show has been designed by Simon Costin, famous for his dead-animal jewellery in the Eighties. Costin's high fashion art profile gives a glamorous if not dangerous edge to the display he wanted to have the signs written in human blood, but was overridden by the Crafts Council on grounds of safety. The result is nonetheless impressive: a sepulchral interior of neoclassical black-velvet drapes draped by disembodied gilded hands – the sort of place a decadent's body might lie in state.

So are the contents lying in state, last gasp of *de luxe* one-offs in the face of increasing ruminal utilitarianism? Mary Shoester, who, along with her co-curators Philip Hughes and Louise Taylor, has refined the show's intellectual approach, defines the aim of *Decadence?*: "At the end of every century, culture becomes obsessed by where it's been and where it's going. Where is the happiness in life?" This worrying anxiety has an obverse side: a retreat into luxury. For Taylor, *Decadence?* is about "redefining luxury... it's not

Clockwise from bottom: Classic urn by Grayson Perry; 'Icarus' by Andrew Logue; chest by John Makepeace

sequins, but cashmere"; the exquisitely hand-made, the unique.

This show could furnish an entire apartment for a modern-day Comte des Esseintes: from Neil Wilkin's steel-and-crystal chandelier to Carl Hahn's rustic Gothic chair made for a young girl, "nicely brought up but badly behaved"; from Kel Ito's bleach-spattered linen housecoat, to the Timorous Beagles' screen-prints of thistles and vine-entangled fish that resemble a William Morris for the 21st century.

You'll have to take out a second mortgage to be able to afford John Makepeace's *Fifteen*, a chest of drawers assembled from burr elm and wild cherry, its every joint and edge so rounded or mitred as to become a sensual object in its own right. But your breath must be reserved for the back room where,

If the Earth dries out, how will we be able to make the desert bloom once more?

The answer lies five metres below the Sussex Weald. By Nonie Niesewand

**B**ooffs at Kew have plans to save the world in the next century when the world turns into one big desert. Deep underground, beneath their new laboratories at Wakehurst in Sussex, opening next year, a seed bank stores 25,000 species from arid regions. By the year 2010, if the worst happens they can forest the Sahara with prickly juniper, bring *ankincees* back to Somalia, and *et baobab* trees all around the impopo river in Africa.

Forget the rainforest – the scientists at Kew have, because they realise that only the politicians can save it. Logging is a political agenda, not a botanical one. But in the dried out, desolate areas of Australia, Africa, India, Mexico and Brazil – where the rainfall is less than 600mm a year – people eke out a living on dusty soil so eroded that it blows away in the wind. One fifth of the world population lives in these arid regions.

Botanists estimate that one in eight plants every year are becoming extinct, leaving our planet forever. Scientists at the Royal Botanical Gardens of Kew got the millennium Commission to give

them a £30m Lottery handout, matched by donor funding to a total project cost of £50m, to make a seed collection and a cluster of laboratories to house it. "It's costing as much as Chelsea FC would pay for a decent forward line, but will last a lot longer," says Roger Smith, project director at Kew.

Seeds are immediately X-rayed for insects that could destroy the whole collection. Once dried, the seeds are stored in an icy chamber at minus 20C. Every 10 years, some of them are germinated to check the batch hasn't passed its sell-by date. Designated a site of outstanding natural beauty and special scientific interest, the sloping spur of the Weald at Wakehurst was tricky. Any new building had to be "at once imperceptible but when perceived, of peerless quality", according to the planners. So Stanton Williams, the architects, placed the seed storage vaults five metres underground with the laboratories, greenhouses and a visitor centre on top.

To explain their elevations, the architects hand out a photograph of a long seed-pod. Pragmatic as well as poetic, the architects took their inspiration from a bean pod, swelling protectively around 10 hard-shelled

seeds, creating 12 barrel-vaulted buildings, each measuring 14.4m by 7.2m. Above the deep freeze, these single-storey vaulted labs cluster around the gardens in which pink drifts of sea-thrift thrive. Glazed at both ends, and facing east-west, they get maximum sunlight.

To get Lottery money from the Millennium Commission, Kew had to make their new outstation at Wakehurst accessible to the public. In a winter garden which doesn't really live up to its name, since nothing much will grow there, an educational display introduces plants in their natural habitat.

When the new laboratories open in 2001, you will be able to come right into the core and, through the windows, watch the scientists at work ("which is about as exciting as watching paint dry"). Roger Smith says disarmingly. The aim is to demystify the men in white coats, as well as let them work in a controlled environment.

"It simply says, here we are, is what we do, and explains it to the visitor who can interpret it as they will. Wakehurst estate is all about private discovery, and the new building is in the same spirit," Smith says. The most powerful reason to

bank seeds, he believes, is their potential use in medicine. Members of the Women's Institute collect seed clippings because it is used clinically in a cancer drug called Taxol. The chemotherapy for childhood leukaemia, Vinblastin, is made from periwinkle plants.

Paul Williams of Stanton Williams believes that this is the first Lottery-funded project that is really meaningful. It's not just an excuse for a new building which everyone then wonders how to fill. "We've produced an environment which holds on to the DNA of plants and grafts it back again," he says.

Rooms for research and contemplation cloistered rhythmically about a courtyard planted with clipped Dutch elms are reminiscent of Le Corbusier's La Tourette monastery, where natural light streaming through coloured light wells, into the dim chapel, make one doubt Le Corbusier's avowed agnosticism.

Stanton and Williams took their practice to La Tourette in France for a week's retreat. "Did you know that Le Corbusier designed every space to mirror the proportions of those 100 cell-like rooms? So the chapel is exactly 100 times bigger in volume

than the 100 rooms. As you move about, you carry with you that imperceptible sense of personal space. It's an incredible experience," Paul Williams says.

At Chelsea Physic Garden last Wednesday, Paul Williams and Roger Smith gave a joint lecture entitled "Architecture, Science and Spirituality". Not on religious grounds – although, it has to be said, there is something proselytising about the plight of our planet – but to capture the new age.

Few establishments have the credibility to embark upon such a

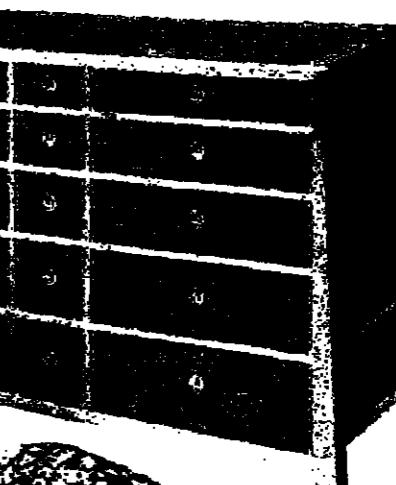
mammoth global quest.

"We draw upon our links, not in the old spirit of the Empire when Victorians took away cuttings in their sponge bags, but with the cooperation of many countries responsible for their own actions."

"First we ask, 'Do you want to play?' then, 'Are you mandated?' With their informed consent, we begin seed-collection."

So what happens if global warming makes Waterworld the reality, rather than seas of sand? What use desert palms and thorn scrub then?

Roger Smith is sanguine. "I'm not



You thought the 1890s were the very last word in decadence, but our own *fin-de-siècle* is doing pretty well, too – going out in a flurry of disembodied hands, necklaces made of mock Viagra tablets, 60-channel television and an epidemic of hype. By Philip Hoare

might have been a coke-sniffing straw and mirror).

Yet there is a sense in which decadence, as a continuing strand from successive *fin-de-siècle*, is a precursor to regeneration.

She sees the show as having "the ambience of an 18th-century salon"; visitors are encouraged to sit on Carl Hahn's chair, to touch Neil Wilkin's chandelier. And, if they are in a truly decadent frame of mind, they can buy it all, too.

*Decadence?* is on at the Crafts Council Gallery, 44a Pentonville Road, London N1 9BY, 0171-278 7700, from 21 January to 14 March.

Philip Hoare's *Wilde's Last Stand: Decadence, Conspiracy & the First World War*, is published by Duckworth, price £11.95.



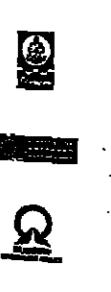
The pod-style seed banks at Wakehurst in Sussex

Glyn Griffiths

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Greenaway in Edinburgh: 'I really do believe that the history of cinema has no comparison with the history of art'

Colin McPherson

# Every picture tells a movie

**Peter Greenaway says cinema is dead. The fun's all going on elsewhere, and he's going to prove it. By Elisabeth Mahoney**

**A**t Edinburgh College of Art last week, Peter Greenaway greeted a packed lecture theatre with two provocations. "Contemporary cinema," he began in his customary delivery, all precise enunciation and rather pleased with what he's about to say, "is extremely boring, moribund, dead." The smarty-pants in the audience tittered, the scholars nodded, the rest of the audience – for whom Greenaway is one of the leading lights of contemporary cinema – looked a bit confused. "Bill Viola," he continued, now on a roll, "is 10 times more exciting than Scorsese." Less titters and confusion this time, and more nods as the crowd settled down for what was to be a talk rather like the films he makes: controversial, deeply funny in places, a dazzling display of eccentric intelligence. And, let's not forget, a bit weird.

He kept saying, "I don't know whether you ever saw a film called..." when referring to his own films, he told us that we would be celebrating the Millennium either six years too early or four years too late and, declaring he felt rather constrained by the standard two-hour film format, talked about his new project, which will consist of just the four feature films, a 16-part television series, four or five CD-Roms

and a website. Well, what did you really expect from the man who brought us *The Baby of Mâcon*?

What you might not expect from him, though, is an exhibition of fine art. But this is what had brought him to Edinburgh, the opening of "Peter Greenaway: Artworks 63-98", a retrospective of work produced, unbeknown to much of his cinema audience, during his 35-year career as a film-maker. While it may come as no surprise that Greenaway's training was in fine art, given the visual complexity and experimentation of his films, it's something of a shock to discover that as well as making 49 films and videos over the years, including his best-known works *The Drowning Man's Contract* (1982) and *The Cook, the Thief, His Wife and Her Lover* (1989), Greenaway has produced a huge body of paintings, collages, photographs and installations. The work on show is but a tiny fraction of it.

On the day the exhibition opened, Edinburgh was in a bit of a Greenaway frenzy. The free tickets for his talk had all been snapped up well in advance, while the private view at the University's Talbot Rice Gallery was packed to the gills. "Which one is he?" I was asked an improbable number of times. And if the experience of Cornerhouse in Manchester, where the exhibition originated, is anything to go by,

the gallery can expect brisk business. Doubling the usual number of visitors for its exhibitions, the Greenaway show also sold 700 rather than the customary 150 exhibition catalogues.

Unsurprisingly, given the reason for his visit, Greenaway did his best to be seen as a visual artist who paints, makes films, curates exhibitions, stages operas and writes books, rather than as a film-maker who paints. Rather perversely, this involved giving cinema a thorough drubbing and turning his back on the medium for which he's best known. Whatever question I put to him that

more profound and entertaining than anything cinema has produced so far.

"I'm very pessimistic now about cinema. There are no interesting film-makers anymore. They have all gone to the new media." And it's tricky to ask Greenaway about the relationship between the films that we love (or loathe) him for and his paintings, as he refuses to admit any distinction between them. He relishes recounting a story about another journalist who suggested that they "leave the films aside for a minute and concentrate on the art" and, when someone tells him that

*'I'm very pessimistic now about cinema. There are no interesting film-makers any more'*

it was back to this theme. Why, for example, did he turn to a career in film after graduating from Walthamstow School of Art? "Cinema gave me the opportunity not just to deal with the imagery but with text as well, but I've somehow always felt that my moving into cinema would only be temporary... I really do believe that the history of cinema has no comparison with the history of art. We have had 2,000 years of image-making in terms of painting, which has produced thousands of different ideas

scenes from his films look like works of art, he has trouble containing his glee. "See, you've fallen into the trap!" So I ask one of the exhibition curators instead. Alan Woods goes along with Greenaway's no-boundaries-between-different-media position. "The more you get into what he does, the more one film fits another film, a film fits a painting. He might have an idea for a film from a painting or maybe a film gets made and then it becomes a painting afterwards. So *Drown-*

*ing By Numbers* existed as a set of ideas before in *The Falls* [a series of collages from the late Seventies], then later as a book, *The Fear of Drowning*, some of which led back to *The Falls*. There's a genuine interrelation here and some consistent ideas you can follow through."

Inevitably, most visitors to the exhibition will come because of Greenaway's films and will see the paintings as a supplement to the moving images, the thinking behind them. But there are works relating to films most of us will never see, such as the rather neurotic map collages and images in *A Walk Through H*, relating to the little-known and very strange-sounding film of the same name from 1978. Equally, some images like the beautiful blue painting *Icarus Falling into Water* (1997), relate to films not yet made, ideas which may or may not surface in future projects.

For the artist, the still images are a chance for what he calls "a private investigation" of the themes that obsess him, without concern for narrative structure or the box office. They're quieter, less shocking and esoteric than the films and, maybe if they weren't by Greenaway, we'd pass them by.

But it's as impossible to see them objectively in this way as it is to unravel where one idea begins and ends up in Green-

away's work. As Alan Woods puts it, if you know the films and see the exhibition, you realise that "everything's behind everything, but it's not present, it's always underneath". If that sounds a bit befuddling, it won't once you've seen this show. Take the most recent work in the exhibition, *Half Women*, a painting of a naked female lower torso. Greenaway painted the picture after finding a branch in his garden shaped like this while he was writing the script for his forthcoming film *Eight and a Half Women*, a homage to Fellini's *8½*.

The painting was to be seen in the film, although in the end it won't be, but it's clearly one of the threads feeding into Greenaway's work about Fellini's fantasies of female beauty. You can appreciate the film without this painting and vice versa, but seeing the different elements gives a rare insight into the way Greenaway works. He doesn't storyboard, he doesn't give off-pat explanations of the films, he loathes our reliance on narrative. As Woods puts it: "He gets everything together and then invents." It helps enormously, of course, if the trees in your garden grow branches shaped like naked female torsos.

*'Peter Greenaway: Artworks 63-98' is at the Talbot Rice Gallery, University of Edinburgh, until 20 February (0131-650 2211)*

## MICHAEL CHURCH

'Only Arthur Miller strikes a false note, the old windbag...'

PAGE 14

Paul Walden & Derek Nicol for Flying Music, London. AIS Productions Inc.

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### THEATRE

MARTIN YESTERDAY  
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and their early hip wisecracking seems to promise more caricature. Matt, the likeable young married man who discovered he was gay in *Poor Superman*, seems to have flicked into an entirely new persona. But in Ben Daniels' strong performance he is still engaging and touchingly nervous as he begins a promising relationship with Martin.

Matt and Rachel are in fact successful comic-book artists

Martin Yesterday (Ian Gelder) is an openly gay local politician tirelessly committed to making Toronto a more humane and decent place to live. For a while, Matt's creativity and Martin's gravity appear an open and mature alliance as they share knowledge of Martin's HIV and Matt's incipient depression.

But you cannot know everything about someone, and as more and more emerges about two of his ex-lovers, now his housemates, Martin's character complicates. Nor is it easy to get a fix on these two the knowing Québécois Yves (Nathan Wilcock), and the out-of-his-face kid Rex, played by Daniel Roberts. But as Martin's personality first draws doubts and then darkens, so Matt reveals more of his own self-centred ruthlessness and disdain for "losers" among whom even Rachel (Ruth Lass) comes to be counted. Here is the complexity of characterisation I missed in Fraser's earlier work.

Fraser's argument is that it is the distortions of relationships caused by the pressures of straight society on "sick" gays, and the real sickness of AIDS, that so confuse Matt and Martin and bring such destructive frustration.

Marianne Elliott directs the impassioned exchanges with clarity and force and is supported by a design team which ensures that the dance-club settings work as a metaphor for the whole urgent action.

JEFFREY WAINWRIGHT

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## MUSIC

## LYRIC SHEETS

MARTIN NEWELL

*Chris Smith, the Culture Secretary, has agreed to the staging of nine Hyde Park gigs every summer for the next five years. The concerts will help to raise money for the royal parks. Artists lined up include Sting, Simply Red and Sir Cliff Richard*

## Margaret's Noisy Neighbours



Here at Kensington Palace  
One sits and sips one's gin  
One closes all one's windows  
In case the noise comes in  
If one hears one more drumcheck  
Or roadie shout, "One two!"  
One won't be held responsible  
For what one's going to do.  
One knows of course, the artists  
One's heard of Simply Red  
But much more of Cliff Richard  
One might go off one's head.

One much preferred the Sixties  
One dug the Rolling Stones  
One played the early albums  
On Palace gramophones  
One quite enjoyed the concerts  
Shambolic though they were  
But what one can remember  
is somewhat of a blur:  
And these days, with Mick Jagger  
One tends to think, "Aye aye..."  
One makes one's own four-poster  
And that's where one must lie."

But none of this notwithstanding  
One finds the music lame  
It's all form and no content  
Which one thinks is a shame  
One sees these prancing boy groups  
Which one finds rather bland  
And wonders what became of  
The Edgar Broughton Band?  
One tried to get to Woodstock  
And Glastonbury Fayre  
One's sister put her foot down  
One's sister's such a square.

## You hum it, I'll blow it up

**What marks the end of the jazz road? Free improv, chaos, Cecil Taylor. Yet no one swings like Cecil and no one upholds the tradition more than his partner this weekend, Max Roach. By Phil Johnson**

The American pianist Cecil Taylor (pronounced See-sel) is just about the last stop on the line as far as jazz is concerned. Certainly, for those travelling on the modernist route, you can't really go any further. The various stations on the way - bebop, cool, hard-bop, modal - flash by and then you hit the Taylor terminus of totally free improvisation, where the yawning jaws of an immense abyss open up to swallow you. Although he's nearly 70 and his great breakthrough occurred 40 or so years ago, opus Taylor, there's still nothing but a dirty, great, black hole.

No wonder subsequent movements have doubled back to the comforting familiarity represented by chords and tunes, for after Taylor's forbiddingly dense improvisations post-modernism was perhaps the only place to go. And although a whole school of improvised music has grown up in response to his free-form experiments in the Sixties, it mostly isn't jazz anymore. Taylor's furious assaults on the keyboard most certainly are. No matter how fractured the arpeggios (you have to see Taylor in action to experience just how powerfully he hits those keys), there's always at least an echo of the jazz tradition to be heard. While he may never play two conventionally congruent notes, the music somehow continues to swing. You may even be able to dance to it, for one of Taylor's greatest influences and most abiding passions is the art of dance. He once said: "I try to imitate on the piano the leaps in space a dancer makes."

Cecil Taylor was born in New York in 1929, to a mother who was both a dancer and a pianist. After taking piano lessons from the age of six, he attended New York College of Music and later the New England Conservatory, where he was influenced by the heavy block-chords of Dave Brubeck's jazz piano playing. Although the influence sounds unlikely, Brubeck told me in an interview that Taylor used to look over his shoulder when he played in New York clubs.

"He said I was the missing link," Brubeck said. "But he didn't say between what and what." For his own part, Taylor has said of Brubeck: "I learned a lot from him. When he's most interesting, he sounds like me." Taylor's recording debut, the album *Jazz Advance*, made in Boston in 1956 (and produced by Tom Wilson, who would go on to produce Bob Dylan and the Velvet Underground), is a fascinating document. A quartet date with Steve Lacy on soprano sax, it's notable primarily because it showcases Taylor playing tunes which he does very well. On compositions by Monk and Ellington, and standards such as Cole Porter's "You'd Be So Nice To Come Home To", he swings like the clappers, but the heavily percussive and melodic deconstructive elements of his mature style are there in embryo.

This quartet was the first group to play the Five Spot Café in New York, and Taylor was beginning to make a considerable reputation until the increasingly abstract character of his music, and the arrival in New York of Ornette Coleman



I try to imitate on the piano the leaps in space a dancer makes: Cecil Taylor (above), with drummer Max Roach (below)

with his more melodic concept of free jazz, consigned him to the outside berth once again. This, more or less, is where he has remained. A chapter on Taylor in AB Spellman's 1966 book, *Four Lives in the Bebop Business*, chronicles the years of struggle when he would be lucky to play more than a handful of gigs a year. His relationships with other musicians on the New York "scene" were strained, not only because of his uncompromising music, but also because he was a gay man in a largely homophobic jazz community. Perhaps as a result, he has tended to perform most often as a soloist, although he was involved with other "New Thing" players such as Jimmy Lyons, Albert Ayler and Sonny Murray in the Sixties, and these days he sometimes plays in the "Feel Trio" with bassist William Parker and the British drummer Tony Oxley.

Some of Taylor's most fruitful musical relationships have been with drummers, and Sunday's London date with Max Roach is therefore a tantalising prospect. Each will perform a solo set before coming together for the second half of the performance. They've played together before, but not for years.

Despite his principled refusal to compromise his art, it's hard not to see Taylor's outsider status as largely self-willed.

He appears to enjoy the role, and has probably profited from it, especially in Europe and Japan, where his rare appearances command large fees. Like Ornette Coleman, he has attained the almost mythical stature of a genius or guru figure, where eccentricity isn't just permitted but comes with the turf. Thus Taylor's performances are often strange affairs, part music and part theatre, with gnomic poetic outbursts scattered among his improvisations. And as geniuses are allowed to do anything they like, the audience is unlikely to ask for its money back.

As if to confirm his wayward genius,

Taylor has been leading the British

press a merry dance these past few weeks. The first time I phone his number in New York, his assistant or partner or whoever answers: "Yes, he's here, but he's rather sound this morning," he says. Then: "No, wait a minute, he's coming to the phone now." The deep tones of Taylor's voice follow. He's sorry, but he's having breakfast. Can I try later? I do, but the promised interview never happens. It's been rumoured that Taylor wants cash for questions, and the promoter's offer of a fancy meal in London apparently isn't enough to make him talk.

In contrast to Taylor, Max Roach is approachable, if a little forbidding. When I interviewed him last year at his apartment on Central Park West, in a room decorated with African masks, Roach answered questions patiently from the lofty perspective of someone who isn't just speaking for himself, but for jazz in general. Incredibly, he's only five years older than Cecil Taylor but while the pianist has come to represent the end of the line, Roach has travelled the whole journey. Along with Charlie Parker and Dizzy Gillespie, he helped invent bebop before forming, with Clifford Brown in 1954, the first great hard-bop group. In the years since, he has kept pace with each succeeding development in jazz

while retaining an essential identity as the most intelligent of all drummers.

When it comes to the unfettered freedom that Cecil Taylor's playing appears to represent, Roach is more cautious, always keeping one eye on the past. "You're free to pick and choose what the concepts that you pick and choose must be as profound as those you learn from," he says. "Segregation, as convoluted as it seemed, kept the music in that rarefied atmosphere of creativity that was profoundly exhibited by Lester Young, Louis Armstrong, Dizzy Gillespie and so forth, and the public knew exactly how to respond. Then when the music began to branch out to the rest of the world, it seemed you could do anything, but it was never that. You had responsibility to the people who came before you. You could never just do anything."

So, on Sunday, the old sage (aged 74) and the young rebel (68) do battle on the Barbican stage. The great irony is that both these OAPs are still on the jazz train and rattling along into the future, while Wynton Marsalis and his generation are travelling in the opposite direction, trying, perhaps, to get back to the comforting certainties of the age of steam.

Taylor and Roach play the Barbican, London EC1, on Sunday (0171-638 8891)

Redfern

## The

SEASIDE DOO RON thing is their act. First, they reputation for being as they are spurned by sweet heebles and then apologize only after much fund raising up - don't they know? - they start their about 15 minutes after a state. Then he goes the c they've got their act together. Seasides never change, calling not least because

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## THIS WEEK'S ALBUM RELEASES

REVIEWED BY ANDY GILL



**BONNIE PRINCE BILLY**  
*I See A Darkness*  
Domino

WILL OLDHAM's whimsical penchant for changing his name with each successive release (*Palace Brothers*, *Palace Music*, *Palace*, even *Will Oldham*) has already resulted in the Belfast leg of his tour being cancelled, no local promoter having the courage – or the suicidal stupidity – to advertise a show by Bonnie Prince Billy.

You have to say it's their loss: *I See A Darkness* is Oldham's most beguiling release yet, a marvellous album which endows his characteristic melancholy with an uplifting, epiphany grace.

Oldham's compositions are exquisitely wrought pieces whose manner is always in perfect accord with their form – which here shifts more than ever towards traditional folksong. "A Minor Place" has the comfy quality of rhymes that have been around forever and a day. And though "Nomadic Reverie (All Around)" builds to a

rousing, storm-tossed, gospel-shanty climax suggestive of derangement, the peculiar, convoluted shifts of tense in Oldham's verses have clearly been crafted like complex marquetry, syllables and shades of meaning slotting seamlessly together beneath the surface commotion. The album's real power, however, lies in the way Oldham makes it all seem so natural, the way his frail, fleeting delivery and weatherbeaten arrangements add a convincing patina of antiquity to these songs. They're not the musical equivalent of repro furniture, nor do they sound like retouched roots-music exercises – they really do have the authentic feel of songs that have been smoothed to perfection over centuries, like well-whittled sticks, or folk memories passed on at a mother's breast. The first essential album of the year.



**BLACK STAR LINER**  
Bengali Bantam Youth Experience!  
WEA

THE ANGLO-ASIAN music explosion continues apace, with the pioneering rap and indie work of Apache Indian, Fun-Da-Mental and Cornershop succeeded by the cosmopolitan sound experiments of the Outcaste crew, Asian Dub Foundation and Black Star Liner – whose second album is a hugely enjoyable set of infectious trance-rock. The hypnotic chanted of the grooves is intricately detailed with some bric-a-brac – twists of sitar strings, hums, twangs and sabre-clash percussion. The band derives most of its idiosyncratic character, however, from the Indian-Trinidadian vocalist Chouque Hossein, whose declamatory toasting style is in the tradition of Bo Diddley and Beefheart and Big Youth: loud and enigmatic and often funny, too. When Chouque revs up his engine in "Low BMW", he all but becomes the car: "heyy... boom, boom, boom, boom, boom, boom, brrrrrrr! BMW, double double bass!" – with a demented dignity that's quite, quite mad, and quite perfect: a hit, a palpable hit.



**ALTERNATIVE TV**  
Apollo  
Overground

THIS LATEST offering from the punk fanzine pioneer Mark Perry finds him still effectively – albeit ineffectually – fighting the battles of yesteryear: tracks such as "Oh Shit, We Fell From Grace" and "Communication Failure" are slabs of sullen drone-rock over which Perry intones glum, misanthropic diatribes about hopes betrayed and youthful delusions dashed. "The spark went out/the lads gave in", he notes in the latter, which places him in exactly the same position he was some 30 years ago. The "dirty realism" that marked ATVs debut flexi-disc "Love Lies Limp", meanwhile, has decayed into tawdry, not-quite-pornographic details. Musically, ATVs moving towards a more loops'n'bass oriented sound, though there are still remnants of the Fall-style riffs of yore – but the album's best pro art grind, "Just a Memory", is thrown away at the tail end of the album. Still, in these obsequious, consumer-friendly times it's good to find something with the authentic, pissy tang of welfare anomie.



**VARIOUS ARTISTS**  
New Highway  
Abkokado/Direc

THIS COMPILATION of American neo-roots music follows in the dusty footsteps of last year's *Loose and Vivo: Americana Anthologies*, but suffers from diminishing returns; this may be the most fertile strain of American rock, but there's clearly a limit on quality. The album takes its title from Dave Alvin's modern hobo blues, but too many artists either veer off down the wrong highway (the prog-rock self-regard of Neal Casal's "Twilight of the Floods"), or settle for routine covers of old folk-rock chestnuts such as "Whiskey in the Jar" and "Washed My Hands in Muddy Waters". But there's compensation in the rough, rodeo exhilaration of Slobberbone's "Engine Joe", a tale of a natural mechanic reduced to flipping burgers, and Nadine's "Closer", plumbing the deeper, darker environs of sadcore. Cajun influences creep in with Billy Swan's rollicking version of "Mystery Train" and the loneliness of the long-distance performer is best evoked by Kevin Welch's "5 Million 1 Thousand Miles", a lived-in voice conveying a life that's barely living at all.

## Superb vixen

LIVE  
GARBAGE  
WEMBLEY ARENA  
LONDON

GARBAGE ARE the thinking man's Republica. Both bands oscillate between Britpop, rock and grunge and are headed by commanding female vocalists with a penchant for controversy. But where Republica's frat-house rock is of fleeting interest, Garbage's more robust sound has a depth that has earned them respect and longevity.

Sadly, the vigour found on their recorded material struggled to translate live as Shirley Manson's vocals were lost in the echoing acoustics of Wembley Arena. The introduction of a percussion section, sporadic techno rhythms and over-exuberant lighting served only to highlight the band's frailties. In the end it was up to Manson's trademark magnetism to bring the show to life.

Manson is best in dominatrix mode. As she stomped up and down pointing at the boys in the front row and encouraging them to bow down before her, she was the epitome of the Nineties femme fatale: strong, sexy and mouthy. But it seemed that this fiery red-head has grown tired of this persona. Despite her icy confident demeanour, Manson displayed a darker side fuelled by paranoia. Over and over again she referred to how her band has been insulted by critics, crying: "Why do I feel that the world conspires against me?" The words "freak" and "ugly" recurred as she remembered her teens. Manson also seemed ill at ease with her audience – on one occasion, as she changed instruments, a hush fell across the auditorium which was suddenly broken as she bellowed, "why are you quiet? What's wrong with you?"

A guest appearance from Chrissie Hynde put a merciful end to her whining: Manson returned to her supervixen ways, swishing her ponytail like a petulant teenager and spitting out the words as if she had a mouthful of grit.

The pair of them performed a rabble-raising duet of "Only Happy When It Rains," and the crowd roared. At the end Manson dropped to her knees in reverence, declaring Hynde "the real deal". This was the kind of spectacle that befits an arena show.

The real deal indeed.

FIONA STURGES

A version of this review appeared in later editions of yesterday's paper

## They came, they saw, they missed the boat

## LIVE

NME PREMIER GIGS:  
**SEBADOH, ELLIOTT SMITH,  
HEFNER, QUASI**  
THE ASTORIA  
LONDON

SEBADOH DO two things early on in their set. First, they cement a reputation for being as sweet as they are spineful by swearing at a heckler and then apologising. Secondly, after much fumbling and tuning up – don't they have roadies? – they start their first song about 10 minutes after ambling on stage. There goes the claim that they've got their act together.

Sebadoh never change, and it's galling not least because the other

three bands on the first of the NME Premier Gigs are on to something. Elliott Smith's backing band, Quasi, play their bustling garage pop with grinning bonhomie. Then

drummer Janet Weiss starts bashing away with the same generous enthusiasm she brings to her other band, Sleater-Kinney. Singer/keyboard player Sam Coomes chips in by squeezing some infernal noises from his tatty organ, and their breezy pop gets turned inside out by something nicely irascible.

Three-chord pop nerds Hefner grab the mettle quickly. With singer Darren Hayman's lecherous brio, their breezy pose matched by unapolo-

getic guitar abuse and nasal screeching their tires against ex-lovers sound as tart as ever.

Elliott Smith shows his rough side, too. "Bottle Up and Explode", Smith sings, and if he hadn't played it so cool at least one person might have done. Apparently, Smith hates being around "winners". He must

like Sebadoh, then. Famously, Sebadoh miss their boat every time. They mess up gigs and ponder near-miss triumphs in their

lyrics. They missed a potentially career-breaking tour with Nirvana, for obvious reasons. So much for mainman Lou Barlow's bite; remember how he former Sebadoh as revenge against ex-Dinosaur Jr bandmate J. Mascis, or how he satirised indie music in 1992's blazing "Gimme Indie Rock"?

True, their seventh album, *The Sebadoh*, is their most consistent. New single "Flame" is a looping and hum-wiggle top infused with

samples and a hint of Northern Soul. It's a slight departure for them while "Love is Stronger" is one of Barlow's gentlest probes at love's mess. Live, though, the rich mix of crunchy post-grunge, warm balladry, and soft, folky pop becomes a string of between-song fumbblings and a sound like sludge.

When they finally pull the rug out from under you with the awesome "Beauty of the Ride", it's too late.

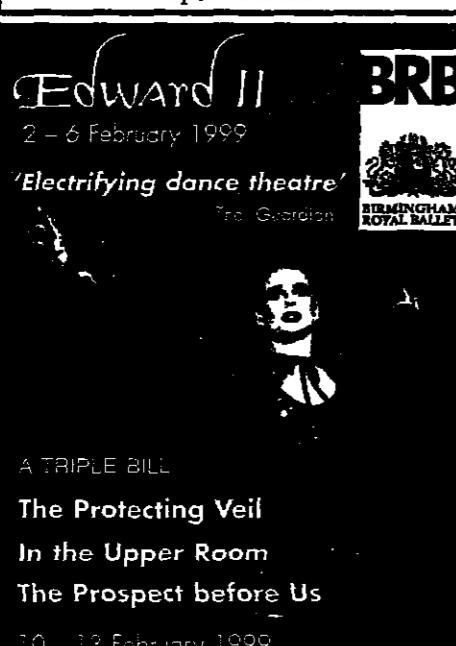
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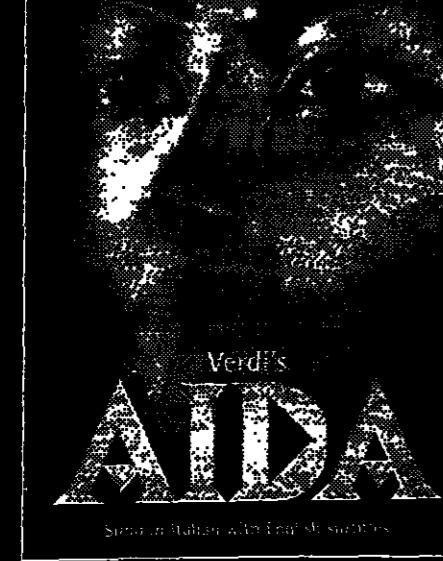
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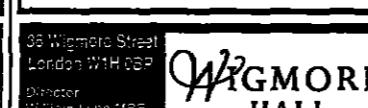
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**NEW FILMS****BULWORTH (18)**

Director: Warren Beatty  
Starring: Warren Beatty, Holly Berry  
Dog-dried and disillusioned at the end of an election campaign, woolly liberal senator Jay Bulworth (Beatty) turns suicidal loose-cannon; lifting the lid on US politics, hanging out in the hood and delivering his speeches in abrasive rap stylings. Beatty's *Bulworth* is a blast: crude and condescending on occasion, yet genuinely audacious and committed; savaging a corroded democratic system in a way that few mainstream Hollywood films (and *Bulworth*) is bankrolled by Murdoch's Fox Studios) would dare to do. At an age when he might be forgiven for resting on his laurels, Beatty's freewheeling heart-on-sleeve romp puts him abruptly back in film's front rank.

*West End: Odeon Camden Town, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Haymarket, Warner Village West End Local: Action Park Royal Warner Village, Dagenham Warner Village, Edmonton Lee Valley UCI 12, Harrow Warner Village, Holloway Odeon, Newham Showcase*

of Disco's leading lights: a garbled, underdeveloped run-through of dance-floor chic as Ryan Phillippe's colourless busboy falls in with the beautiful folk (Salma Hayek and Neve Campbell) and learns the downside of life in the fast lane. Tatty stuff, all told.

*West End: Odeon Camden Town, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Haymarket, Warner Village West End Local: Action Park Royal Warner Village, Dagenham Warner Village, Edmonton Lee Valley UCI 12, Harrow Warner Village, Holloway Odeon, Newham Showcase*

**HILARY AND JACKIE (15)**

Director: Armand Tucker  
Starring: Emily Watson, Rachel Griffiths  
Full-throttle playing from Rachel Griffiths and Emily Watson sustains Tucker's warts-and-all biopic of the Du Pre sisters, Hilary (shy, married flautist) and Jacqueline (world-famous cellist). Sibling rivalries, a ménage à trois and terminal illness are all carefully navigated by Tucker's finely-wrought direction, though it's as an acting showcase that Hilary and Jackie really hits home.

*West End: Clapham Picture House, Curzon Soho, Notting Hill Coronet, Odeon Kensington, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on Baker Street, Screen on the Green, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Haymarket, Warner Village West End*

**CLASS TRIP (LA CLASSE DE NEIGE) (15)**

Director: Claude Miller  
Starring: Clement Van Den Berghe, François Roy-Pitoy Nicolas (Van Den Berghe); bed-wetting schoolboy fantasist with few friends and a domineering dad in François Roy's prosthetic-limb salesman. Spirited off on a school skiing trip, the nippie starts letting his own dark imaginings run away with him, as Miller's pungent child's-eye psycho-drama switches nervously between stark naturalism and florid dream sequences. Actually, there's a lot to admire in the tense, smouldering *Class Trip*. The trouble is, Miller gets overfussy: he keeps messing with the mood, keeps letting air into the pressure-cooker. And you can spot the ending a mile off.

*West End: ABC Shaftesbury Avenue Repertory, Cine Lumière*

**S4 (15)**

Director: Mark Christopher  
Starring: Mike Myers, Ryan Phillippe  
Christopher's retro-trip through the heyday of New York's Studio 54 boasts a glitterball turn from Myers (as club boss Steve Rubell), but not a whole lot else. What we have here is the huckstering hanger-on to *Boogie Nights* and *The Last Days*

Xan Brooks

**GENERAL RELEASE****THE ACID HOUSE (18)**

A trio of interrelated shorts culled from the stories of Irvine Welsh, *The Acid House* plays out in the down-and-dirty landscape of inner-city Edinburgh, and darts with brio between a range of moods and tones. Less poised and populist than *Trainspotting*, but more earthy, edgy and intense, too. *West End: Odeon Camden Town Local: Newham Showcase*

**ANTZ (PG)**

See *The Independent Recommends*, right. *West End: UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero*

**THE APPLE (S1B) (PG)**

Seventeen-year-old Samira Makhmalbaf's precocious début stages a true-life re-creation of the fortunes of Iran's Naderi sisters, raised in seclusion by their parents before being set loose in the world by a visiting social worker. Part docudrama, part rites-of-passage fable, this is an extraordinary民主 from a burgeoning Iranian film scene. *West End: Metro, Renoir*

**BASE: PIG IN THE CITY (U)**

The follow-up to *Babe* tosses the hapless "sheep-pig" into the midst of the city where he becomes the unlikely saviour of a bunch of assorted waifs. Knockabout comedy is kept to a minimum in favour of a bleak animalistic fairytale. *West End: Plaza, UCI Whiteleys And Local cinemas*

**THE BOYS (18)**

Out of jail after serving a sentence for GHB, eldest "boy" Brett Sprague (David Wenham) moves back into his mum's drab suburban home, terrorises his girlfriend and turns his younger brothers into petty henchmen. *The Boys* spotlights the downside of life Down Under - it's potent, predatory stuff. *Repertory: Prince Charles*

**DOBERMANN (18)**

Vincent Cassel's born-to-be bad gangster struts and sneers his way through a gleefully abstracted Paris while Tcheky Karyo's bad-egg cop looks on balefully. It seems that this is what the new French cinema is all about: endless stylised carnage and iconic posing, plus a script that's going nowhere fast. *West End: Metro, UCI Camden Town, Virgin Trocadero*

**THE DREAM LIFE OF ANGELS (18)**

See *The Independent Recommends*, right. *West End: ABC Swiss Centre*

**ENEMY OF THE STATE (15)**

Will Smith's fall-guy DA teams up with Gene Hackman's pensioned-off Pentagon warhorse, probes a political cover-up and gets embroiled in all manner of Big Brother-type trouble. *West End: Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Odeon West End, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Fulham Road And local cinemas*

**LITTLE VOICE (15)**

Holed up in her bedroom, Jane Horrocks is perfecting strident Shirley Bassey/Judy Garland impersonations when she falls in with Michael Caine's sleazy impresario. Where director Mark Herman's last film, *Bressed Off*, was a whole and solid effort, *Little Voice* proves altogether more bitty. But bracing black comedy, Horrocks's vocal pyrotechnics, plus a marvellously weighted turn from Caine push through to the final curtain. *West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Odeon West End, Phoenix Cinema, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Fulham Road*

**THE MASK OF ZORRO (PG)**

This gaudy swashbuckler gallops full-speed through 19th-century California in the company of Antonio Banderas's authentically Hispanic do-gooder. A lot of colourful duels and clattering action sequences. *West End: Odeon Kensington, Odeon Mezzanine, Odeon Swiss Cottage, UCI*

**CINEMA WEST END****THE INDEPENDENT RECOMMENDS****THE FIVE BEST FILMS****The Dream Life of Angels (18)**

Erick Zonca's remarkable début draws its strength from the contrasting personalities of Isa (Elodie Bouchez) and Marie (Natascha Reginier), whose friendship comes alive in the drab environs of Lille.

**The Opposite of Sex (18)**

Christina Ricci plays 16-year-old bitch-on-wheels Dedee, shooting from the lip and causing all kinds of havoc when she moves in with her mild-mannered brother (Martin Donovan). Director Don Roos's script bristles with acidulous one-liners.

**The Truman Show (PG)**

Peter Weir's ingenious, unsettling fantasy is, in the end, an escape movie - in the case of Truman Burbank (Jim Carrey, right), it's breaking out of the round-the-clock TV docu-soap that is his own life.

**π (15)**

Darren Aronofsky's début, filmed in sooty black-and-white, tells the story of a genius mathematician. This stylish indie movie fearlessly combines *π*/2 Street, Jewish mysticism and nightmarish headaches.

**Antz (PG)**

Computer-animated comedy voiced by a stellar cast features Woody Allen as a worker ant who becomes an unlikely war hero and opponent of the colony's totalitarian regime. Terrific fun.

ANTHONY QUINN

**THE FIVE BEST PLAYS****The Street of Crocodiles (Queen's)**

Triumphant revival of Théâtre de Complicité's surreal, funny and searing plunge into the imagination of Polish-Jewish writer Bruno Schulz, shot dead by the Nazis in 1942. *To 20 Feb*

**The Colour of Justice (Tricycle)**

Enormously potent staged re-enactment of the Stephen Lawrence Inquiry (right). It coincides with uproar surrounding the fate of the policemen involved in the case. *To 6 Feb*

**Memory of Water (Vaudeville)**

Alison Steadman pulls off one of the funniest and truest drunk scenes ever in Shelagh Stephenson's fine play about sisters brought back together for their mother's funeral. *To 10 Apr*

**A Month in the Country (RSC, Stratford)**

Michael Atttenborough directs Brian Friel's adaptation of Turgenev's portrait of all-consuming desire. *In rep To 20 Feb*

**Martin Yesterday (Royal Exchange, Manchester)**

Mariaine Elliot directs this sharp new play from the cult Canadian dramatist Brad "Unidentified Human Remains" Fraser. *To 6 Feb*

PAUL TAYLOR

**THE FIVE BEST SHOWS****Monet in the 20th Century (Royal Academy)**

He lived till 1926. The gardens and ponds at Giverny dissolve into elemental visions: fiery lights, haze, liquid reflections, voids and depths. The strange last works of Impressionism (above). *To 18 Apr*

**Andreas Gursky (Serpentine Gallery)**

Photographs 1994-98: wide-vision, high-finish, micro-detailed vistas of our world - stock-exchange floor, cityscape, airport, alpine valley - images filled with more than the eye can see. *To 7 Mar*

**Bridget Riley (Abbot Hall Gallery, Kendal)**

A small retrospective, spanning Riley's career as top British abstractivist - from the shimmering monochromes of her early Sixties Op Art fame, to colour, stripes, diagonals, curves. *To 31 Jan*

**Disasters of War (Wolverhampton Art Gallery)**

"I saw this" - three ages of European war through the etchings of Jacques Callot, Goya and Otto Dix. Black-and-white visions from the blackest of times: mass-executions, madness and blood everywhere. *To 20 Mar*

**Willie Doherty (MOMA, Oxford)**

Contemporary Irish artist using photos and video to reflect on the imagery of terror and security - the road-block, the surveillance camera, the burnt-out car, the interview in silhouette. *To 4 Apr*

TOM LUBBOCK

**CINEMA****NOTTING HILL CORONET**

(0171-727 6705) @ Notting Hill Gate Bulwirth 3pm, 6pm, 8.40pm

**ODEON CAMDEN TOWN**

(0870-500070) @ Camden Town 5pm, 6.40pm, 9.30pm, 11.30pm

**ABC PICCADILLY**

(0171-277 4322) [from 1pm] @ Piccadilly Circus Haman: The Turkish Bath 1.25pm, 3.50pm, 6.10pm, 8.35pm There's Something About Mary 1.05pm, 3.30pm, 6.25pm, 8.25pm

**ABC SWISS CENTRE**

(0870-902 0404) @ Leicester Square/Piccadilly Circus Buffalo 6.15pm, 8.45pm, 10.45pm, 12.45pm, 2.15pm, 4.15pm, 6.15pm, 8.20pm, 10.20pm, 12.20pm, 2.25pm, 4.25pm, 6.30pm, 8.35pm, 10.35pm

**ABC SHAFTESBURY AVENUE**

(0870-902 0404) @ Leicester Square/Tottenham Court Road 1.25pm, 3.30pm, 5.30pm, 7.30pm, 9.30pm, 11.30pm

**SCREEN ON THE GREEN**

(0171-226 3520) @ Highbury & Islington Bulwirth 3.50pm, 6.20pm, 8.45pm, 11.15pm

**SCREEN ON THE HILL**

(0171-435 3366) @ Belsize Park Hilary and Jackie 3.10pm, 6.40pm, 9.10pm

**UCI WHITELEYS**

(0990-588990) @ Bayswater 5.45pm, 8.45pm, 11.45pm

**EDMONTON**

(0870 88990) @ Edmonton Hale 5.40pm, 8.50pm, 11.50pm

**LEE VALLEY**

(0870 88990) @ Lee Valley 5.40pm, 8.50pm, 11.50pm

**SCREEN ON BAKER STREET**

(0171-935 2772) @ Baker Street 3.05pm, 6.25pm, 8.45pm, 10.55pm

**SCREEN ON BAKER STREET**

(0171-935 2772) @ Baker Street 3.05pm, 6.25pm, 8.45pm, 10.55pm

**SCREEN ON THE GREEN**

(0171-226 3520) @ Highbury & Islington Bulwirth 3.50pm, 6.20pm, 8.45pm, 11.15pm

**SCREEN ON THE HILL**

(0171-435 3366) @ Belsize Park Hilary and Jackie 3.10pm, 6.40pm, 9.10pm

**THE MASK OF ZORRO**

(0870 902 0412) @ Beckenham Junction 11.55am, 3.30pm, 7.05pm, 11.15pm, 2.45pm, 6.15pm, 9.30pm, 11.30pm

**FELTHAM**

(0870 88990) @ Feltham AA Laut Chalon 11.55am, 3.30pm, 7.05pm, 11.15pm, 2.45pm, 6.15pm, 9.30pm, 11.30pm

**CINEWORLD THE MOVIES**

(0181-867 0555) BR: Feltham AA Laut Chalon 11.55am, 3.30pm, 7.05pm, 11.15pm, 2.45pm, 6.15pm, 9.30pm, 11.30pm

**EDMONTON**





EVENTS

**RADIO 1**  
(97.6-99.8MHz FM)  
6.30 Zoe Ball 9.00 Simon Mayo.  
12.00 Kevin Greening 2.00 Mark Radcliffe. 4.00 Chris Moyles. 4.45 Newsbeat. 6.00 Pete Tong's Essential Selection. 9.00 Judge Jules.  
11.00 Westwood - Radio 1 Rap Show. 2.00 Fabio and Grooverider. 4.00 - 7.00 Emma B.

**RADIO 2**  
(88.9-92MHz FM)  
6.00 Sarah Kennedy. 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan. 9.30 Ken Bruce.  
12.00 Jimmy Young. 2.00 Ed Stewart. 5.05 Des Lynam. 7.00 A Very British Story. 7.30 Friday Night Is Music Night. 9.30 Frankenstein.  
9.30 Listen to the Band. 10.00 David Jacobs. 10.30 Sheridan Morley. 12.00 Lynn Parsons. 4.00 - 6.00 Latia Sharma.

**RADIO 3**  
(90.2-92MHz FM)  
6.00 On Air.  
9.00 Masterworks.  
10.30 Artist of the Week.  
11.00 Sound Stories. See Pick of the Day.

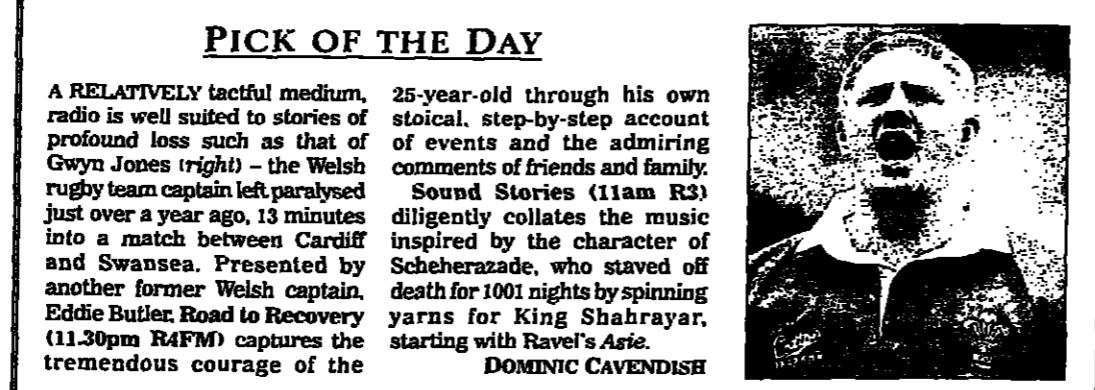
**12.00 Composer of the Week:** Purcell: With Robert King. 5. 1639-1655. Te Deum in D. 2222; The Blessed Virgin's Exposition. Z96; Incidental music 'Abdelazar'; Music for the Funeral of Queen Mary. Z860.

1.00 Luncheon Concert.  
2.00 The BBC Orchestras.  
4.00 Music Restored.

4.45 Music Machine. (R)  
5.00 In Tune.

7.45 Performance on 3. Live from Greyfriars Kirk, Edinburgh, introduced by Geoffrey Baskerville. Conductor Yvonne Tafani. Haydn: Symphony No 45 in F sharp minor (Farewell). 8.35 News from North Britain. Five new stories from Scotland. 2. 'Mystic Lotus', by Ellen Galford. Great-uncle Hugh goes to Blackpool and returns with a new wife. Her exuberant taste in clothes and exotic make-up make her a clear winner in her new family's 'black sheep Olympics'. Reader Maureen Beattie.

8.35 Concert, part 2. Bruckner: Symphony No 4 in E flat (Romantic). 9.45 Postscript. 5. The Monet Market. Monet remains one of the most bankable of all artists, with originals selling for millions of pounds and reproductions decorating everything from mouse mats to umbrellas. With



## PICK OF THE DAY

A RELATIVELY tactful medium, radio is well suited to stories of profound loss such as that of Gwyn Jones (right) - the Welsh rugby team captain left paralysed just over a year ago, 13 minutes into a match between Cardiff and Swansea. Presented by another former Welsh captain, Eddie Butler, *Road to Recovery* (11.30pm R4FM) captures the tremendous courage of the

DOMINIC CAVENDISH

actually from Christie's most recent auction of Monet paintings and a browse through the Royal Academy's shop, this programme reflects on changes in the market for Monet from his day to ours. With excerpts from Monet's letters read by Paul Scofield.

**10.00 Hear and Now.** Following closely the arrival of the new year is the Park Lane Group's annual series of concerts featuring young artists playing contemporary music traditionally staged in the Purcell Room on London's South Bank during the first week of January. Previous programmes reveal a veritable who's who of musical life - and this year's line-up ranges from solo piano via percussion and harp to wind quintet. Verity Sharp presents highlights from the ten concerts, including performances by Pedro Cameira (percussion), the Marais Ensemble, Chamber Domaine and the Quartz Saxophone Quartet.

**11.30 Jazz Century.** Russell Davies presents a 52-part history of jazz, from its earliest stirrings until the millennium.

**12.00 Composer of the Week:** Rimsky-Korsakov. Piers Burton-Page introduces Rimsky-Korsakov's final operatic works. *Suite Legend of the Invisible City of Kittezh*; BBC PO/Eward Downes. O vain illusion of glory and grandeur (Legend of the Invisible City of Kittezh); Boris Christoff (bass), Philharmonia/Vilhelm Schuchter. Suite 'The Golden Cockerel', Russian NO/Mikhail Petrenko.

9.00 NEWS: The Friday Play: 825Y. Wally K Daly's new play intriguingly imagines what would happen if a re

**RADIO 4**  
(92.4-94.6MHz FM)  
6.00 Today.

9.00 NEWS: Desert Island Discs. 9.45 Serial: Iris.

10.00 NEWS: Woman's Hour.

11.00 NEWS: Little and Large.

11.30 The Oldest Member.

12.00 NEWS: You and Yours.

12.57 Weather.

1.00 The World at One.

1.30 Puzzle Panel.

2.00 NEWS: The Archers.

2.15 Afternoon Play: Spirit. (R)

3.00 NEWS: Logged On.

3.30 The Vale. (R)

3.45 This Sceptred Isle. (R)

4.00 NEWS: Open Book.

4.30 The Message.

5.00 PM.

5.57 Weather.

6.00 Six O'Clock News.

6.30 The Ghost of Number Ten.

7.00 NEWS: The Archers.

7.15 Front Row. Mark Lawson with the arts programme.

7.30 Jazz Century. Russell

Davies presents a 52-part history of jazz, from its earliest stirrings until the millennium.

**8.00 NEWS: Any Questions?**

Jonathan Dimbleby is joined in Matlock, Derby, by panelists including Jackie Ballard MP, David Blunkett, Secretary of State for Education; and Will Self, author and columnist.

8.45 Letter from America.

Alistair Cooke with another slice of America.

9.00 NEWS: The Friday Play: 825Y.

Wally K Daly's new play intriguingly imagines what would happen if a re

search scientist discovered a gene that could determine a man or a woman's natural lifespan. With Amanda Stretton, Geoffroy Whitehead and John Strickland. Director Gordon House.

10.00 The World Tonight. With Robin Lustig.

10.45 Book at Bedtime: Nana. Juliet Stevenson reads the final part of Emile Zola's novel.

11.00 NEWS: Late Tackie. Eleanor Oldroyd and guests take a look at the week in sport.

11.30 Road to Recovery. The

moving story of Gwyn Jones, who just over a year ago was captain of the Welsh rugby team and soon to qualify as a doctor. But after injuring his neck in a match he was totally paralysed, and now faces his most daunting challenge - the battle to walk again. See Pick of the Day.

12.00 News.

12.30 The Late Book: Last Resort. By Alison Lurie, read by Kate Harper. Part 10.

12.45 Shipping Forecast.

1.00 All World Service.

1.30 World News.

1.45 Shipping Forecast.

1.45 Inshore Forecast.

1.45 Prayer for the Day.

1.47 Leisure Update.

5.56 - 6.00 Weather.

**RADIO 4 LW**  
(198kHz LW)

9.45 - 10.00 An Act of Worship.

12.00 - 12.04 News Headlines;

Shipping Forecast. 5.54 - 5.57

Shipping Forecast. 11.30 - 6.00 To-day in Parliament.

**RADIO 5 LIVE**  
(693.909kHz MW)  
6.00 Breakfast.  
9.00 Nicky Campbell.  
12.00 The Midday News.

1.00 Ruscoe and Co. P. Glover and the 5 Live team present live reports from the big news and sports events of the day, including Moneycheck, and P. guest in conversation.

4.00 Drive.

7.00 News Extra.

7.30 Alan Greene Sportsnight.

W and studio guests discuss

the week's sporting issues. Plus

news of the night's Nationwide

League action and a preview of the

weekend, including England's latest

one-day game in the triangular se-

ries.

10.00 Late Night Live. Insight and

comment on the day's big issues

with Brian Hayes. Including Pa-

partak. 10.30 Sport. 11.00 News. 11.5

The Financial World Tonight.

1.00 All Night.

5.00 - 6.00 Morning Reports.

**CLASSIC FM**  
(1000-1019MHz FM)

6.00 Michael Mappin. 8.00 Henry Kelly. 12.00 Requests. 2.00 Concer-

to. 3.00 Jamie Crichton. 6.30

Newright. 7.00 Smooth Classics at

7.30 Seven. 9.00 Evening Concert.

1.00 Alan Mann. 2.00 Concerto.

3.00 - 6.00 Mark Griffiths.

**VIRGIN RADIO**  
(125-127MHz MW)

6.30 Chris Evans. 9.30 Mark For-

rest. 1.00 Nick Abbott. 4.00 Hamlet

Scott. 7.00 Wheels of Steel. 11.00

Janey Lee Grace. 2.00 - 6.00

Steve Power.

**WORLD SERVICE RADIO**  
(198kHz LW)

1.00 The World Today. 1.30 Meridi-

an (Books). 2.00 The World Today.

2.30 People and Politics. 3.00 The

World Today. 3.20 Sports Roundup.

3.30 World Business Report. 3.45

Insight. 4.00 The World Today. 4.30

Weekend. 5.00 The World Today.

5.30 - 6.00 My Century.

**TALK RADIO**  
(198kHz LW)

6.00 David Banks and Nick Ferrini.

9.00 Scott Chisholm. 1.00 Lorraine

Kelly. 2.00 Anna Raeburn. 3.00 OK

To Talk. 5.00 The Sports Zone. 8.00

James Whale. 10.00 Dave Barrett's

Phone-In with the Midnight Psychic.

2.00 - 6.00 Mike Dickin.

## INDEPENDENT PURSUITS

CHESS  
JON SPEELMAN

AS MENTIONED briefly on Wednesday, following just two rounds of play on Saturday and Sunday the players at Wijk aan Zee had a rest day. Rather odd, you may think; but in fact this "rest" consisted of 13 five-minute games in the annual Wijk aan Zee blitz tournament.

Everybody took part from Shirov, who withdrew at the last moment and was replaced by Manuel Bosboom - a manic attacking player both to opponents and himself. Indeed it was Bosboom who scored the only victory against the runaway tournament winner, Gary Kasparov.

Kasparov clearly means business at Wijk. He dominated the blitz tournament, winning nine of the 13 games to take the first prize of 5,000 guilders with a round to spare, ending up on 10.5/13, clear of Anand and Ivanchuk 9, Kramnik 8, Ivan Sokolov 8, Svidler and Topalov 6.5, Kasimdzhanov 6, Pliet and Bosboom 5.5, Timman 5, Van Wely 4.5, Reinhardt 3.5 and Yermolinsky 3.3.

In this first-round game, Kasimdzhanov set up a reasonable position with the so-called Maroczy bind pawn structure characterised by the e4 and e4 pawns against

the b4 and c4 pawns, with the knight on b4.

Kasparov's queen sacrifice 20...Nxd5! was even better.

Kasparov emerged with approximate material equality - a rook, a minor piece and a pawn for the queen. But here both of his minor pieces, especially the inviolable knight on c5, were better than White's knight, he had play against

White's weakened queenside pawns, his own pawn structure was excellent, and above all, his king was quite safe. In the absence of targets a queen is pretty useless and Kasimdzhanov was dispatched effortlessly.

**White:** Rustam Kasimdzhanov  
**Black:** Gary Kasparov  
Wijk aan Zee Blitz 1999  
Sicilian 4 Qxd4

1 e4 c5 2 Kf1 Rdc7  
2 Nf3 d6 3 Nf4 e6  
3 d4 cxd4 4 Ng4 Bg5  
5 c4 Nc6 6 Qd2 g6  
7 Nc3 Bh6 8 Qc4 Rb7  
8 Qc2Bg7 9 Be3 Nf6  
10 Rb1 b5 11 Rb2 Ne4  
12 Rad1 Nd7 13 Ne3 Bxe3  
13 b3 Rb8 14 Qa5 Nc5  
14 a4 Qa5 15 Rb4 Rb3+  
15 Nd4 Bxe2 16 Rb2 Ne6  
17 f3 Rfd4 18 Nds Rd4+  
18 Nds Rd7 19 Qa5 Rb3+  
19 Qb4 Rb1+ 20 Qd2 Nxd5!  
21 Qg2 Rb2

